

SARS global death toll now exceeds 500

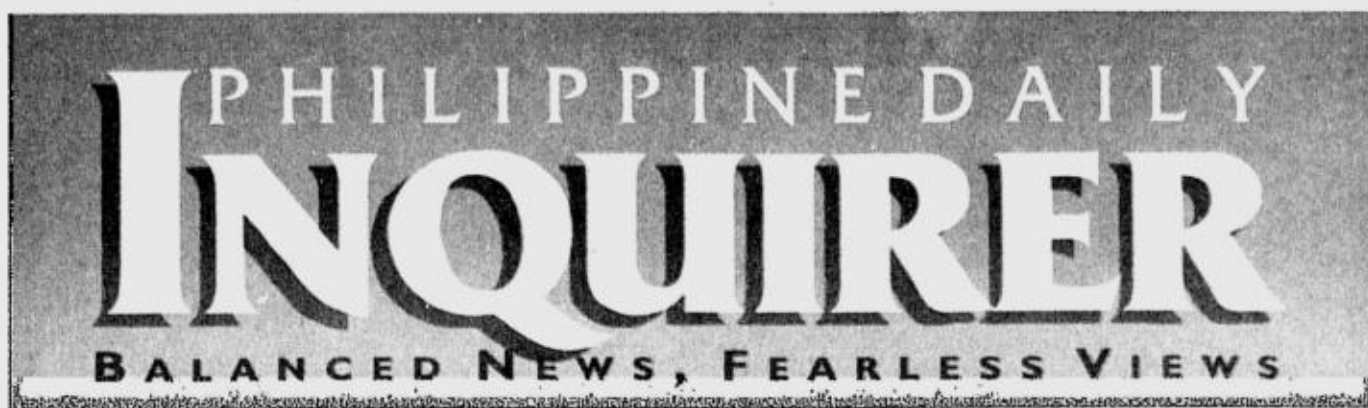
BEIJING—China and Taiwan yesterday described as grim the SARS crisis in their areas as the World Health Organization extended its SARS travel warnings to Taiwan's capital as well as another city and province in the Chinese mainland. As the worldwide toll from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome exceeded 500 dead and 7,000 infected, the Gene-

SARS/A18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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Aussie-Pinoy wants control of P333M

SYDNEY—Filipino-Australian Sef Gonzales, a law student facing charges of allegedly murdering his family, launched a bid yesterday to gain control of his multi-million-dollar inheritance to pay his legal bills. Lawyers for Gonzales, 22, appeared before the New South Wales Supreme Court seeking the accused murderer's ac-

AUSSIE-PINOY/A6

'Sabaya berated GMA'

Palace: She never talked to Abu leader

By John Nery

Editors' Note: Gracia Burnham's "In the Presence of My Enemies" answers many questions and confirms old answers about the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping spree, but it also creates new puzzles. The INQUIRER, which obtained one of the first copies of the book, relates some of the highlights.

(First of three parts)

ON THE AFTERNOON of June 7, 2001, a week and a half after the Abu Sayyaf descended on the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan and abducted 20 hostages, Gracia Burnham heard rebel spokesperson Abu Sabaya speak by satellite telephone to a very important person: President Macapagal-Arroyo.

It was not a pleasant exchange. As Gracia recounts in "In the Presence of My Enemies," Sabaya curtly told "Madam President" that she had failed to properly understand the situation: He had three Americans in captivity and wanted \$1 million in exchange for their freedom.

Gracia did not hear the President's answer, but whatever it was she said triggered a brutal reply. An almost hysterical Sabaya berated Ms Macapagal for demanding the bandits' unconditional surrender. He ranted on and on, finally ending with a threat: If a Malaysian negotiator was not allowed to come in to mediate within 72 hours, the Abu Sayyaf would kill one of the Americans.

The leaders of the Abu Sayyaf had been meeting on the "ground floor" of House 125—the name Gracia gave to a

SABAYA/A19

That never happened! says Tiglao

By Carlito Pablo

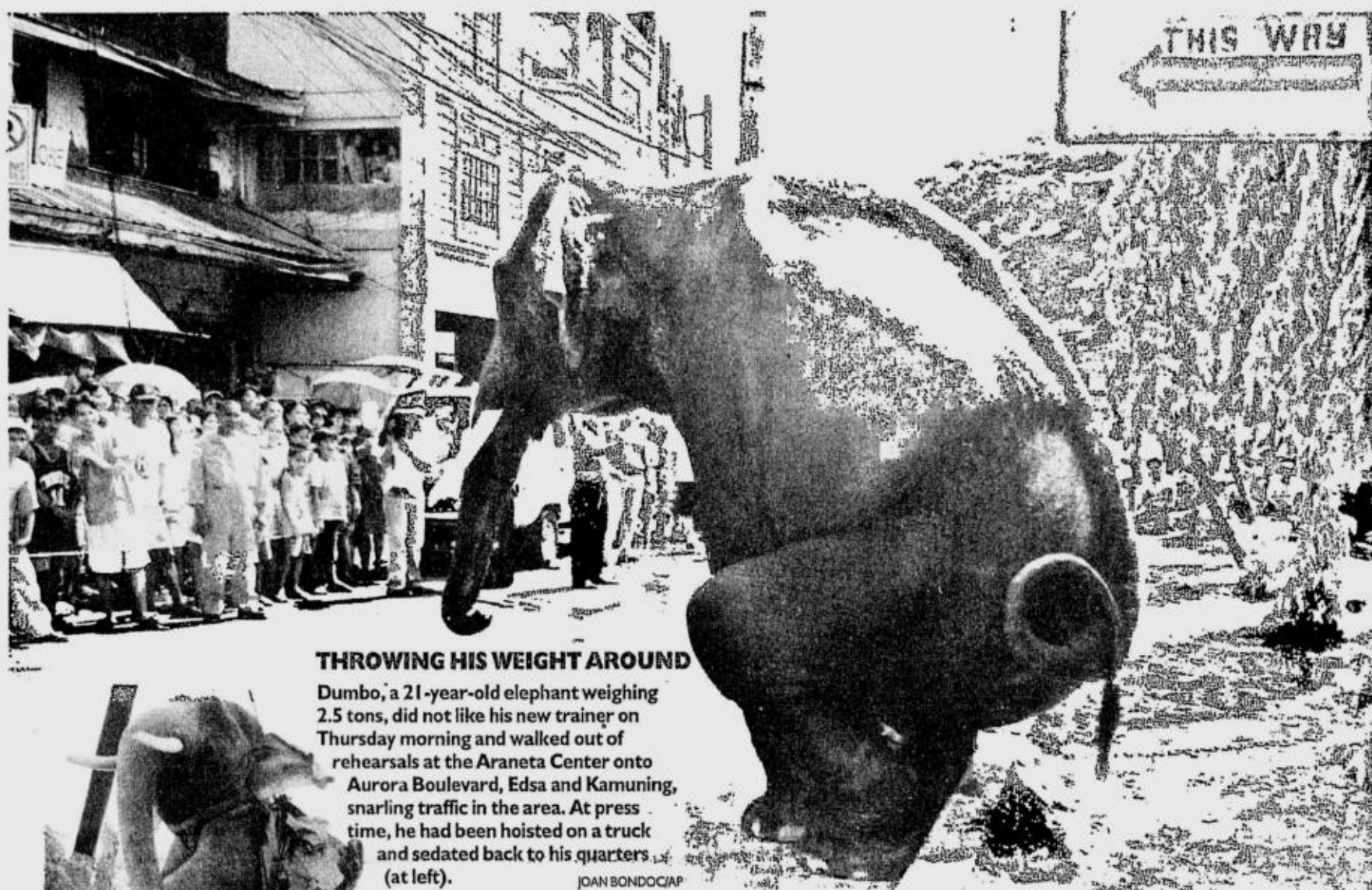
NO SUCH thing.

A senior aide to President Macapagal-Arroyo strongly denied the report that she had talked with Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya in June 2001 regarding the fate of Gracia Burnham, her husband Martin and another American, Guillermo Sobero.

"That never happened!" Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao said. "She never talked to Sabaya."

Tiglao recalled that Sabaya even tried

THAT/A19



THROWING HIS WEIGHT AROUND

Dumbo, a 21-year-old elephant weighing 2.5 tons, did not like his new trainer on Thursday morning and walked out of rehearsals at the Araneta Center onto Aurora Boulevard, Edsa and Kamuning, snarling traffic in the area. At press time, he had been hoisted on a truck and sedated back to his quarters (at left).

JOAN BONDOLIA/P

Runaway elephant brings chaos, cheers

A CIRCUS elephant escaped from his quarters at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City, yesterday and ran among pedestrians and motorists on Aurora Boulevard before a truck driver blocked its path.

Dumbo, the biggest of 10 elephants from Thailand, ran away from practice at about 11 a.m., walked along Aurora Boulevard, crossed Edsa, passed through Judge Jimenez Street, until it was stopped on Kamuning.

Reuters quoted show organizers as crediting the driver of a San Miguel Beer delivery truck for blocking Dumbo's way, allowing his handlers to chain his right front leg to a small tree before placating him

with bananas and cooling jets from a water hose.

A fire truck later arrived to douse more water on Dumbo.

Dr. Oye Sebastian, a veterinarian at the Manila Zoo, injected the runaway with tranquilizers preparatory to his transport back to the Araneta Center.

The Metro Manila Development Authority sent a 10-wheel truck and a crane for the purpose, according to Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

At one point, the 2.5-ton male elephant slipped from the crane that was hoisting him onto a truck

RUNAWAY/A20

Hostages get glimpses of normality, comic relief

By John Nery

IN THE THEATER of the absurd that the Dos Palmas and Lamitan hostages found themselves in, glimpses of normality provided unlikely comic relief.

Gracia Burnham recorded many of them in "In the Presence of My Enemies"—a string of anecdotes that light-

ens an otherwise unbearable load.

On the day they were abducted from the Dos Palmas resort, for example, the Burnhams hurried to the waiting boat, without anything in hand. There was simply no time to pack. But when the other hostages arrived, some were carrying suitcases. When construction magnate Reghis Romero and his girlfriend

Rizza Rodriguez showed up, they did not only have suitcases with them, but a water cooler, too.

On the second day of the abduction, while they were on board a commandeered fishing vessel, Luis Bautista organized a "getting to know you exercise" for his fellow hostages. It was, from Gracia's description, a typical group dynam-

ics activity: the hostages gave their names and then the person's name to their left, until "we all had one another's names down."

That night, Francis and Teresa Ganzon started singing the mellow Beatles songs, and others joined in. "Yesterday," "Let it Be," "The Long and Winding

HOSTAGES/A19

GMA: Probe alleged AFP-Abu collusion

By Carlito Pablo

NOW President Macapagal-Arroyo wants a "formal and thorough investigation" of Gracia Burnham's claim of collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf, although her order yesterday was accompanied by a declaration of "unremitting confidence" in the Armed Forces.

After saying Wednesday through her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye that she

was leaving it to the AFP to address the American missionary's claims, the President directed the Departments of Justice and of Foreign Affairs to conduct the probe and to coordinate it with the US government, "so that the facts may be laid bare to the public."

Ms Macapagal said "proper legal action" would be filed against "those found culpable of any violations of the military code of conduct and the law."

She also ordered the Department of

National Defense and the AFP to "strengthen the rules of engagement against terrorist groups to prohibit and sanction any form of friendly contact with these groups as alleged by Mrs. Burnham" in her book "In the Presence of My Enemies."

"I am glad that Mrs. Burnham has fully recovered from her painful ordeal, and I would like to assure her that justice will be done in this case," the President said

GMA/A18



"THE MAN of my dreams," is how Gracia describes husband Martin Burnham.

Do not appeal, let's talk, Malacañang urges Piatco

By Carlito Pablo, Christian V. Esguerra and Michael Lim Ubac

IN AN UNUSUAL move, Malacañang yesterday urged the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. not to file a motion for reconsideration of the May 5 decision of the Supreme Court nullifying its con-

tracts to build and operate Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Piatco could count on a "just compensation" from the government, a matter which, he noted, can be settled by the parties outside the courts.

"It may be better if the other party (Piatco) will not file a motion for reconsider-

ation and we'll just talk," Bunye said over state radio dzRB. The government is set to take over Naia 3 once the Supreme Court decision becomes final and executory.

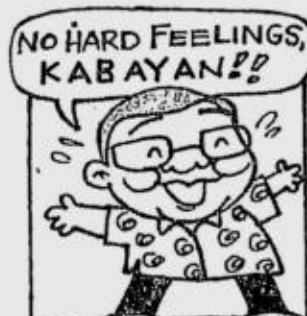
Bunye noted that the high court's ruling "provided anyway what is called just compensation" for Piatco. "The government will surely reimburse the investments it put into the project," he said.

Piatco, which placed the total expenses in constructing Naia 3 at \$500 million, rejected Bunye's appeal.

"It's so easy for the government to say those things now after (it has) achieved (its) goal through a series of maneuvers," Piatco spokesperson Moises Tolentino said.

Tolentino said the consortium got a

DO NOT/A20



Kabayan's station says Roco No. 1

By TJ Burgenio

RAUL Roco is behind Kabayan Noli de Castro in the latest Pulse Asia survey, but a poll conducted by a program of De Castro's TV station shows Roco leading anew the pack of possible presidential contenders.

KABAYAN'S/A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/09/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

El Shaddai, Iglesia buck Cha-cha

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IN A RARE move, the politically influential Iglesia ni Cristo Christian sect and the Catholic-based El Shaddai yesterday came together to oppose Charter change, saying it was not the proper time to tinker with the Constitution.

The INC and El Shaddai, which between them

count on the allegiance of several million members, issued a joint statement titled "Cha-cha, Not Now!"

"After thorough consultations with our members, we believe that the present political, economic and peace and order conditions, fragile as they are, call for our political leadership to exer-

cise extraordinary caution and refrain from committing destabilizing initiatives to keep the country united especially in these perilous times," said the statement signed by Bienvenido C. Santiago and Mel Robles, spokespersons of the INC and El Shaddai, respectively.

They said any move

to amend the Constitution when the 2004 elections are approaching would be perceived by the people as an attempt to advance the personal political interests of incumbent officials.

It would only serve to further erode the "already diminished confidence" of the people in the present

leadership and aggravate political instability, the statement said.

'Shortcut'

Valenzuela City Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo Jr. has, meanwhile, suggested a "shortcut" and a way out of the House and Senate wrangle over whether to go for a constituent assembly or a constitutional convention in amending the 1987 Constitution.

He said there was no need to convene a constituent assembly for the purpose because Congress is already a constituent assembly and can therefore directly propose specific amendments through a regular bill.

Gunigundo said he was drafting a bill to propose constitutional amendments, including the shift to a parliamentary system of government and

lifting of certain economic restrictions.

He said he would directly propose the lifting of restrictions on foreign ownership of academic institutions and media out-fits and exploration of natural resources.

Gunigundo will also propose that the scheduled date for regular elections be moved from May to November so that new elected officials can assume office at the start of the fiscal year.

The House has already approved Concurrent Resolution No. 16 calling for a constituent assembly.

The Senate committee on constitutional amendments, chaired by Sen. Edgardo Angara, is set to vote on the issue on Monday.

But Senate President Franklin Drilon is vehemently opposed to the assembly mode and has authored a resolution calling for a constitutional conven-

tion that was signed by 14 senators.

House officials, quoting Angara, claim that 10 senators are in favor of a constituent assembly with four more possible supporters. A majority of 12 senators is needed to approve the House concurrent resolution.

Joker again

Sen. Joker Arroyo resumed yesterday his attack on the congressional proponents of Charter change.

He argued that a change in the form of government before the 2004 elections would deprive overseas Filipino workers of their newly acquired right to vote in a national election.

The new Absentee Voting Bill for the first time gives OFWs the chance to vote for the president, vice president and senators in 2004. With a report from Christine Avendaño

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Christians retaliate, kill Muslim girl in Lanao raid

CHRISTIAN villagers in Lanao del Norte, angry over a spate of Moro rebel attacks, raided a small Muslim settlement in the town of Maigo leaving one girl dead, a military report said yesterday.

The armed villagers from the predominantly Christian town attacked the Muslim settlers on the edge of the town last Sunday, burning three nipa houses and leaving a 6-year-old girl dead.

The attack was apparently in retaliation for a similar raid by the Muslim separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front on Maigo on April 24 where the rebels occupied parts of the town and looted homes, the military said.

Maigo is a remote town and the Christian attack was only reported later in the week, the military said.

83 dead

Soldiers have been dispatched to the town to prevent sectarian violence from escalating, it said.

The attack came amid increased offensives by the MILF against civilian targets in Central and Western Mindanao.

The MILF attacks have left at least 83 people dead and hundreds wounded since March and have prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to cancel exploratory peace talks scheduled for later this month.

The President has warned the MILF that peace negotiations will not resume unless the rebels renounce the use of terrorism.

She has also offered P50 million in rewards for information leading to the arrest of five top MILF leaders blamed for the attacks.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, however, denied the

group was targeting civilians or engaged in terrorism.

"We are fighting for freedom. The MILF is fighting a legitimate cause in Mindanao and we are recognized by the international community. We are not terrorists and we are only fighting for our freedom. We have not harmed innocent people," he

said.

He charged the government with stepping up attacks on the MILF as part of its discrimination against the country's Muslim minority.

Another MILF official yesterday said the rebel group committed a "tactical blunder" in a deadly attack on the town of Siocon in Zamboanga del Norte last Sunday.

In a report on the rebel website, Mo-hagher Iqbal, chief spokesperson for the MILF, was quoted as saying that the civilians were caught in the crossfire. AFP and AP with a report from Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Maynilad 'undercharging' consumers, exec says

MAYNILAD Water yesterday vowed to continue to exercise its legal rights against the "predations" of the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System, as it maintained that it was un-

dercharging, not overcharging its customers.

Rafael Alunan III, Maynilad president, said the water firm was in effect being penalized for "undercharging" since the MWSS wants Maynilad to reduce its charges by over P8.28 per cu.m., even if the firm did not implement an increase of P4.32 per cu.m. that the MWSS unilaterally granted in January.

Alunan also clari-

fied that the MWSS cannot draw on the performance bond put up by Maynilad while the Major Dispute Panel was hearing the case.

"The MWSS cannot claim that Maynilad has been found to be 'in breach' as this pre-judges the outcome of the case," Alunan said in a statement.

Alunan said that should the dispute with the MWSS remain unresolved up to April 15, 2004, Maynilad must extend the validity of the \$120-million bond until July 31, 2005 and post an additional bond of \$65 million for the same period. **Gerald G. Lacuarta**

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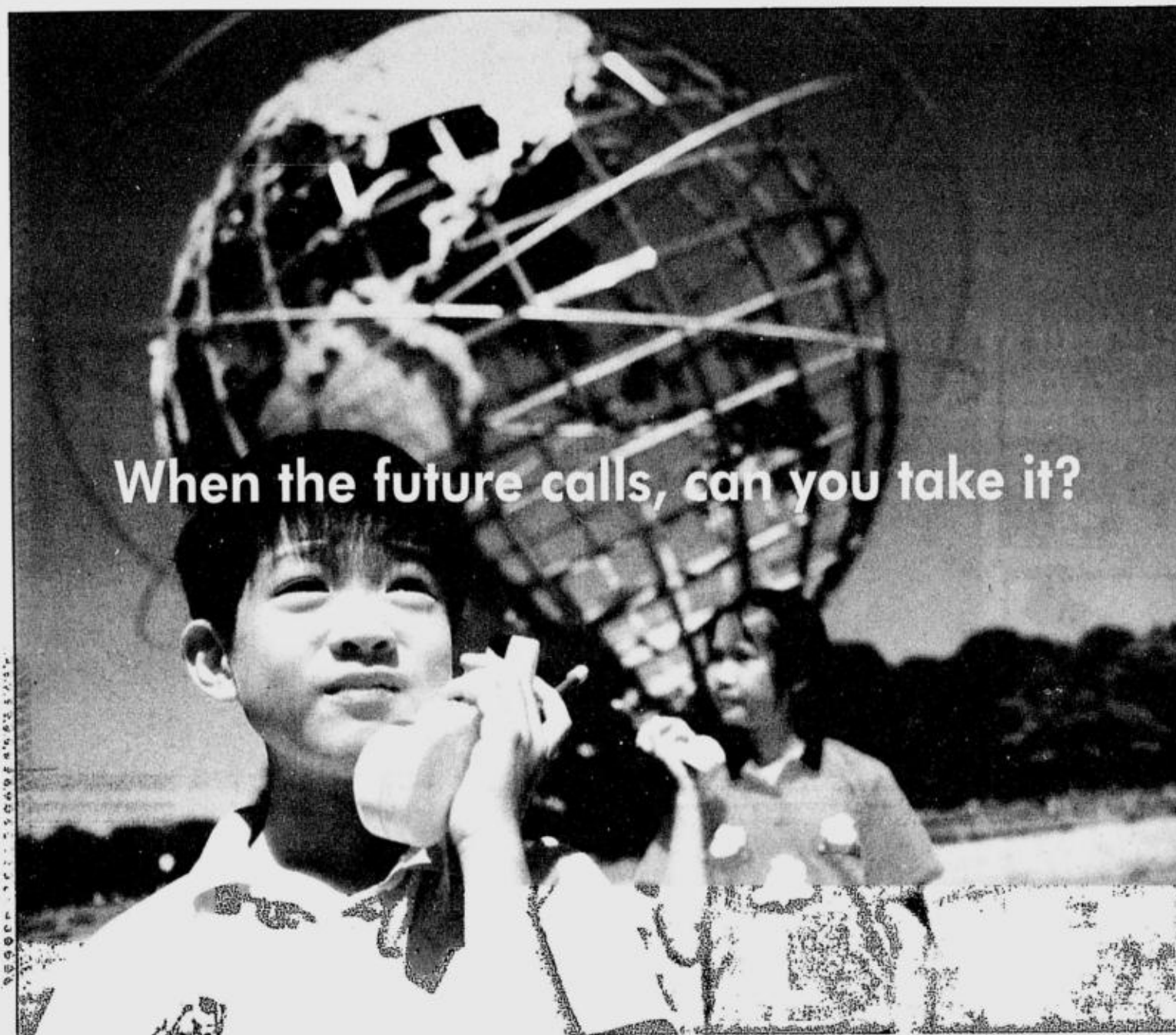
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WHO extends quarantine period for SARS to three weeks

By Armand N. Nocum

THE WORLD Health Organization has ordered the quarantine period for SARS patients extended from two weeks to three to forestall the possibility of a relapse.

At the same time, a health official warned that discriminating against suspected SARS patients and their relatives might drive them from seeking medical help for fear of being ostracized.

Dr. Maria Consorcio Quizon, acting director of the National Epidemiology Center, yesterday said the WHO ordered the extension of the quarantine or isolation period for SARS patients on Monday, following reports of relapses in 12 SARS cases in Hong Kong.

Although Hong Kong officials eventually withdrew their diagnoses of a relapse, Quizon said the new WHO directive would still be enforced in the Philippines.

Hong Kong health officials said the 12 suspected relapse cases turned out to be suffering from other ailments, not SARS.

Quizon said the nature of viral diseases is such that once one gets it and recovers from it, one has a "lifetime immunity" from it. This is the case with mumps, measles and chicken pox, she said.

But a viral disease could sometimes return, she said, as in the case of sore eyes, but under a different strain.

Quizon also warned that discriminating against people with suspected SARS and their relatives could boomerang on the populace.

"Some suspected carriers are increasingly becoming reluctant to have themselves checked for fear that they and their relatives would be ostracized in their communities," she said.

In Hong Kong, Philippine officials moved to "decongest" the embassy there to prevent the spread of SARS among overseas Filipino workers.

Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson said the embassy has reset the processing times for passports and overseas employment certificates so that those seeking the documents would not all come at the same time.

Passports now will be processed only in the afternoons, while OECs may be obtained in the mornings.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas reiterated, however, that the government will not lift its ban on the deployment of OFWs to Hong Kong until the SARS epidemic is contained.

"Until the infection no longer poses a risk to our workers we are unlikely to lift the ban," Sto. Tomas told reporters before leaving for Indonesia

Wednesday to meet with Asian labor ministers.

To help international airlines weather the tourism slump caused by the SARS outbreak, they will be given discounts on land-

ing and other fees at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for two months, officials said Thursday.

The Manila International Airport Authority said it would give a 10-percent dis-

count on landing and departure fees for all commercial flights between May and June.

An additional 15 percent discount would be given on extra commercial flights added to currently scheduled flights.

A 50-percent discount will also be offered for parking fees, lighting charges, aircraft parts as well as overnight accom-

modations for airline crew and staff. With Blanche S. Rivera; AFP

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Gloria for opening classes in September

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo wants school to reopen in September instead of June.

She made her preference known in her weekly television program, "The Working President," which aired last night over state-owned National Broadcasting Network.

Ms Macapagal said her preference had nothing to do with the threat of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in the country.

She said she wanted to spare school children from the rains and floods that usually come in June. It is also at this time that children in the countryside help their parents in the farm, she said.

"So for me, September is the best time to open classes, not because of SARS but because of [the season]," the President told actress Jolina Magdangal, who hosts the program.

Some sectors had proposed moving the opening of classes to September due to the SARS threat. But Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus opposed this, saying the possibility of a SARS epidemic breaking out in schools was "remote." *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

Small consumers to get cash back from Meralco

By Abigail L. Ho

SOME 1.3 million customers of the Manila Electric Co. will get first crack at refunds for overcharges since 1994, as the power distributor prepares to return by next month about P1.06 billion of the P30.39 billion that the Supreme Court ordered it to refund to consumers.

Meralco yesterday presented to the Energy Regulatory Commission its refund plan, in which it proposes to initially give lump-sum cash payments to customers who use only up to 100 kilowatt-hours of electricity each month.

Consumers falling under this category account for 32.9 percent of Meralco's total customer base but their consumption accounts for only 3.5 percent of the total volume of electricity sold by the power firm.

Data from Meralco indicated that for consumers using from 0 to 50 kWh of electricity per month, the average refund would be P354 per customer.

The average refund would be P866 for those using from 51 to 60 kWh; P1,020 for those consuming from 61 to 70 kWh; P1,176 for customers using 71 to 80 kWh; P1,331 for those consuming 81 to 90 kWh, and P1,487 for those using from 91 to 100 kWh of electricity per month.

In a telephone interview, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said the firm's initial proposal submitted to the ERC yesterday would give refunds in June only to customers using from 0 to 50 kWh of electricity per month.

Those with a monthly consumption of 51 to 100 kWh will get their refunds in July.

Francisco explained the reason for this refund schedule was to avoid long queues as many customers might be expected to simultaneously rush to the Meralco offices to claim their refunds.

Aussie-Pinoy wants P333M

From page A1

cess to his family's fortune, believed to be around A\$10 million (US\$6.35 million or P333 million).

The action was launched against Amelita Claridades, Gonzales' maternal grandmother and executrix of the family estate. The court will debate whether Gonzales is entitled to the inheritance despite his being charged with his family's murder.

Gonzales has been in jail for nearly a year awaiting trial. He had pleaded innocent to murdering the three other members of his family in their northern Sydney home on July 10, 2001.

The body of his lawyer father, Teodoro, 46, was found in the foyer of the house; his mother, Loiva, 43, in the living room; and his sister, Clodine, 18, in her upstairs bedroom.

They had been stabbed to death. The women's throats also were slashed and a racial slur was reportedly daubed on a wall of the house.

Gonzales had told police that he discovered the bodies in the early hours of July 11 upon returning home from a night out with friends.

Battered boy?

Shortly after the killings, Gonzales appeared close to tears when he made a public appeal for help in finding his family's killer.

"It is difficult to explain the love and ties in my family but if you were to picture the four corners of the world, in my world we were the four," he told reporters at the time.

Almost a year after the murders, police searched his unit at the high-end Bentleigh Apartments on Katherine Street in Chatswood district near Sydney and arrested him. He has since been held at the Long Bay Remand Center.

Police would not say then what evidence they had against Gonzales but his lawyer said its was mostly circumstantial.

A source in the National Bureau of Investigation in the Philippines had been previously quoted as saying that Gonzales might have been maltreated by his family and that he might have snapped.

"He was reportedly kicked, slapped and beaten. He was a battered boy," the source had said.

Teodoro Gonzales had brought his family to Australia in 1991 and had set up a successful legal practice specializing in immigration matters.

The Gonzales family had been living in Baguio City.

Dilemma

The Australian Broadcasting Corp. re-



SUSPECT Sef Gonzales is accused of murdering his mother, father and sister on July 13, 2001.

ported that during the hearing before the New South Wales Supreme Court yesterday, Gonzales' lawyer said that if his client was innocent and was refused access to his inheritance, the executrix of the estate (Gonzales' grandmother) would be in breach of trust.

On the other hand, if Gonzales was proven guilty and the money was handed over, the executrix would also be in breach of trust.

The court will hear the case on May 30. If convicted of the murders, Gonzales faces life imprisonment. Australia has abolished capital punishment. *With a report from AP*

Kabayan's station says Roco ...

From page A1

ABS-CBN's early morning program "Magan-dang Umaga Bayan" found yesterday that Roco obtained 51 percent (1,601) of the "text votes."

Opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson came in second with 29.8 percent (619 votes); De Castro, third with 13.6 percent (283 votes), and action star Fernando Poe Jr., last with 5.2 percent (109 votes).

The show, which airs from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Channel 2, asked the viewers the question: "Who will you vote for if elections were held today?" So far, only Roco and Lacson have announced that they would run in the next year's presidential election.

It was an informal survey, but its results were a big cause for celebration for supporters of Roco, former education secretary and senator.

Supporters trumpeted the results at the launch of the Reform-Oriented Citizens Organization (ROCO) at the Club Filipino in San Juan yesterday to support Roco's bid for the presidency.

The results came as a sort of "vindication" for Roco, who was dislodged from his perch as a consistent front-runner by De Castro in a nationwide survey conducted by Pulse Asia from March 29 to April 12.

Roco sought to downplay the Pulse Asia survey results which showed him playing second fiddle to De Castro for the first time. "I guess we'll work harder," he told reporters in an interview.

Asked if he was bothered by the survey, he said, "All candidates are welcome."

In the survey, which asked 1,200 people about their top choice if the presidential election were to be held today, 20 percent said they would vote for De Castro and 18 percent

said they preferred Roco.

Pulse Asia said either Roco or De Castro could be the top choice of voters because the survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

At the launch of ROCO, Roco assailed moves by some members of the House of Representatives to convene a constituent assembly in preparation for amending the Constitution.

"I will preserve and defend the Constitution, not modify it," he said in his speech, drawing applause from the audience, which included his former colleagues at the 8th Congress, and former Senators Leticia Ramos-Shahani and Sotero Laurel.

In an ambush interview, Roco admitted that constitutional amendments were allowed, but

he said rules could not be changed "when there is an election approaching."

"You can't strip people of the power (to vote.) And that is what the Con-Ass is desiring to do," he said.

Former Representatives Oscar Orbos, Edcel Lagman, Edno Joson, Tony Aquino, Boji Cabochan, Lally Laurel-Trinidad and Jun Beltran, among many others, led the launching of ROCO.

Roco defended himself from criticisms that he was launching his campaign too early. "It's five months to the official campaign. You must organize. Freedom of association is there," he said.

"I was not early. But when I left the Cabinet, I think there was a general impression and the people sensed an injustice, and so they supported me. I'm not doing anything. I'm hardly in the newspaper, on TV and radio."

Roco disclosed that he was considering Orbos, Representatives Benigno "Noy" Aquino III and Juan Miguel Zubiri, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, and Perfecto Yasay, former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, as senatorial candidates.

"The others I can't mention their name because they're thinking, but we have invited some," he said.

In Bacolod City, a leader of the Freedom, Peace and Justice (FPJ) Movement said members of the administration in the House were pushing for Charter change because they knew that if Poe were to run for president, he would be unbeatable.

Manny Portez, national chair of the FPJ Movement, was in Bacolod City Monday to organize a chapter for Negros Occidental.

So far, the movement has gathered 2 million signatures urging the movie actor to run for president, according to Portez. *With a report from Carla R Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Media band together to stop the killing

By TJ Burgonio

MEDIA organizations the other day launched the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists Inc. (FFFJ), an alliance to take up the cudgels for media professionals who come under attack and become victims of violence.

"We will not allow any act of violence against journalists to go unpunished," declared Cerge Remonde of the Kapiisan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, as he noted the growing list of Filipino journalists being killed.

The FFFJ faulted police authorities for failing to arrest the killers of slain Pagadian City newsman Edgar Damalerio, who was killed a year ago in May 2002.

Inaction

Remonde, FFFJ chair, said the alliance was needed "to ensure that justice is done" in cases of violence against journalists, as he noted authorities' inaction in some cases, particularly that of Damalerio.

"The point is journalists should never be killed. But if it happens, I think we should see to it that those who are responsible cannot get away with it," he said.

The FFFJ consists of the KBR, the Center for Community Journalism and Development (CCJDP), Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR), Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), Philippine Press Institute (PPI), and publisher Danilo Gozo of Philippine News.

Sheila Coronel, PCIJ executive director, said the FFFJ was formed to provide assistance to families of journalists killed "in the line of duty" support newsmen

who are wounded and threatened, and follow up on their cases, among other things.

Not SARS

Melinda Quintos de Jesus, CMFR executive director and FFFJ secretary, said that the FFFJ would not handle the cases of journalists who acquire Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in the course of their work.

"We are not considering SARS in the same classification as attacks on journalists," she said.

Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot vowed support for the FFFJ, saying he would propose that the paper provide space, preferably on the front page, for a countdown in the Damalerio slay case.

"It is appalling that our journalists are being killed with impunity in our country. This state of affairs cannot go on. We have to bring the mastermind and killers to justice. We have to make the environment safe for journalists. We cannot have real freedom of the press if we work in an atmosphere of fear," he said.

Jose Pavia, PPI executive director, enjoined media entities to devote air time or space to a countdown showing the number of days since the killer of Damalerio escaped, "to put pressure on the authorities" to solve the case.

Damalerio, a hard-hitting commentator for dxKP radio in Pagadian City, was gunned down in his car on May 13, 2002. His two companions, Edgar Amoro and Edgar Ongue, survived the attack.

PO1 Guillermo Wapile was charged with the killing in November 2002. On Jan. 28, 2003, how-

ever, he escaped from a police camp, just two days before the court issued a warrant for his arrest.

He and his superior, Asuri Hawani, were ordered dismissed from the service for murder and obstruction of justice.

"It would have been very easy to issue a warrant of arrest, put him in prison and let the legal process take its course. But we have been frustrated at every turn," Coronel said.

Two weeks ago national police chief Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. ordered Chief Supt. Reynaldo

Varilla, regional police chief of Western Mindanao, to launch a

manhunt for Wapile. Since 1961, 54 journalists have been

killed. Only two cases have resulted in convictions.

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Imelda to appeal high court ruling on Olot estate

TACLOBAN CITY—Former first lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos will appeal the Supreme Court ruling ordering her to return to the Presidential Commission on Good Government control of a 45-hectare beach-front estate that she claims is her family's ancestral property.

Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez Sr., younger brother of Mrs. Marcos, said he will not be directly involved in the effort to recover the property in Barangay Olot, Tolosa, 25 km southwest of this city, saying he was leaving it all up to his sister.

"I understand she (Imelda) will file an appeal before the Supreme Court," Romualdez told the INQUIRER on Thursday.

The mayor said that while the high court's ruling was adverse to the family, they had to respect it. "We have to bow to the decisions of the Supreme Court. We have to follow it," he said.

But Romualdez also maintained the Olot estate was the "ancestral property of the Romualdezes."

"You the media know it, as does everybody in the province and the entire country. It is Romualdez property," he said.

'They can kill me'

During a visit to this city last Friday, Mrs. Marcos said she was ready to "die" for the property, which consists of residential and guest houses, a pavilion, a nine-hole golf course and the mausoleum of the Romualdezes.

"They can kill me. I am not afraid. That is mine. That is Romualdez property," she had said. "It is where my father is buried. It is sacred ground for me."

The estate was the scene of many grand parties during the heyday of the Marcoses, counting international movie stars and members of European royalty as regular guests.

The property was sequestered by the PCGG after the end of the Marcos regime in 1986, suspecting it of being part of the Marcoses' alleged ill-gotten wealth.

Mrs. Marcos insisted the property had been with "the Romualdezes even before (Ferdinand) Marcos was born."

On April 28, the Supreme Court ordered Mrs. Marcos to surrender the property to the PCGG, after the Sandiganbayan had earlier returned the property to her and she had installed security guards. **Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau**

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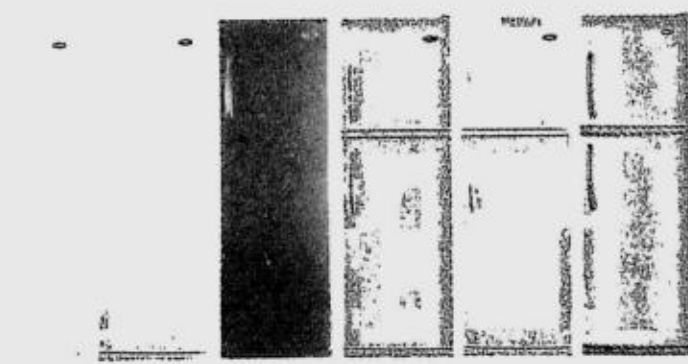
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Traitor

IT'S a tale that has been told more than once, that story about some military officers acting in collusion with the Abu Sayyaf. The problem was nobody in a position to do something about it seemed to believe it, or pretended not to. But now that Gracia Burnham has the account written down, maybe something more than just a revival of interest in the Dos Palmas kidnapping might come out of it yet.

EDITORIAL Burnham was the other half of an American missionary couple kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf on May 27, 2001 along with 18 other tourists. She survived more than a year of captivity in the jungles of Basilan and a bloody rescue that left dead her husband Martin and a Filipino nurse, Ediborah Yap.

In her book "In the Presence of My Enemies," Burnham revealed that soldiers brought rice, sugar and other supplies to the bandits who were holding them hostage. The reason for this was that a general in the region was "wheeling and dealing" with the Abu Sayyaf for a share of a possible ransom for their release. The negotiations broke down when the Abu Sayyaf rejected the general's demand for a 50-percent share and offered instead only 20 percent, she said.

Burnham's story about some military men giving provisions to the kidnappers corroborated an earlier account given by another former hostage, magazine publisher Raul Recio who was able to escape six days after they were seized from the posh resort. He recalled that the Abu Sayyaf often found food and medicines left along the road or areas that they passed in Basilan. The medicines were government issue, Recio noted.

Recio admitted paying P1 million for the release of his sister-in-law Angie Montealegre six months later but did not say if any military men took a cut from the ransom. However, several persons, including Fr. Cirilo Nacorda and several nurses, testified that money changed hands during the siege in Lamitan, when the Abu Sayyaf, with its hostages in tow, escaped a military cordon thrown around a church and hospital complex.

That mysterious escape, which came after President Macapagal-Arroyo had boasted that the military was poised to annihilate the bandits, coupled with Nacorda's charges created a huge scandal that prompted the two Houses of Congress to conduct separate investigations. The House committee on national defense exonerated the military but the Senate committees on national defense and on justice and human rights recommended the court martial of Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez and two other senior military officers.

Significantly, Burnham placed the breakdown of talks for a sharing of the ransom money between the bandits and the general some six months later in January 2002. Which means another general must have callously carried on where Dominguez left off despite all the heat and controversy that the siege had generated. Worse, he went on with the negotiations even as hostages were being beheaded and soldiers were dying by the dozens.

Retired Gen. Roy Cimatu, who headed the Southern Command when rescue operations were in full swing, said the military lost 45 men in the year-long pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf. Considering the sacrifices made by the soldiers, he said, it was "really unfair to make those allegations."

But if only for the sake of those men, the military should get to the bottom of this issue. If Burnham is correct, then there is a traitor high up in the ranks of the military who sold out his men and his country. Instead of closing ranks and protecting someone who is unworthy of his star and his uniform, the Armed Forces should flush him out and deal him the maximum penalty under the law.

Shocking shooting

CONVINCING Iraqis that US soldiers are there to help them will be all the more difficult after the shocking events in Falluja, west of Baghdad. Preventing already widespread popular opposition to the American military presence turning into concerted armed resistance will also be increasingly problematic unless the US army can explain why it was justified in opening fire on a crowd comprising a large number of children and teenagers, killing at least 13 and wounding 75.

To prevent more such disastrous incidents and stop the security situation deteriorating further, an inquiry must be urgently held, preferably with UN oversight and with reference to the Geneva conventions governing the conduct of occupying forces. For reasons of law, morality and self-interest, our relentlessly self-righteous government has a clear obligation to demand that its ally comply.

The Guardian (London)



A new breed of carpetbaggers

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



REMEMBER the Yankee carpetbaggers who rushed to the American South and took advantage of the Southerners after the Civil War? We have their modern counterparts: the opportunistic nations now rushing to send their people to Iraq in the guise of humanitarian aid but really to be among the first to land juicy contracts to rebuild the war-ravaged nation. The Philippines, alas, is one of these opportunists.

No one has asked us—not the Iraqis, not the United States, not the United Nations—to send anybody, but the Macapagal administration is nevertheless sending a 500-strong "peace-keeping force" to Iraq composed of policemen, soldiers and doctors and nurses. Ask any ranking police official why the peace and order and traffic problems here are so bad, and they will reply that it is because we lack policemen. Then why are we sending 500 of them to another country?

Ask our health officials why Filipinos in the rural areas don't get sufficient health care, and they will reply that we lack doctors and nurses. Then why are we sending a hundred of them to another country?

The government is squeezing more and higher taxes from the people, the reason given being that it has a big budget deficit and needs more funds. Then why are we spending P600 million to send a force to Iraq which nobody has asked for?

The answer given is that it is a "humanitarian gesture" to help the Iraqis recover from the ravages of war. Nobody, not even the Iraqis, buy that, and it only makes us look like hypocrites and opportunists. The real reason is that we want to be among the first in line when the contracts and jobs are handed out.

Isn't that good of the Macapagal administration to be looking out for contracts for Philippine companies and jobs for Filipino workers? Yes, but that was also the reason given for the invasion by the Yankee carpetbaggers of the American South. And look how history has judged them.

Let us not deceive ourselves and others. The people of the world were not born yesterday.

They know that it is materialism, concupiscent, the desire for gain, and not humanitarian concerns, that is the main reason for sending our "peace-keeping force" to Iraq. Let's not kid ourselves.

Policemen and soldiers are volunteering for Iraq duty not so much out of humanitarian concern for the Iraqis but because there is extra pay—in dollars—for those who join.

In fact, a number of countries are already squabbling over the contracts and jobs. Some of them were even among those that did not want to be identified as in favor of the US-UK invasion of Iraq. Like the other animals who did not want to help the Little Red Hen to plant, harvest, thresh and cook the rice, they now want to eat what the Little Red Hen labored for. They are like the scavengers, the vultures, hyenas and jackals fighting over the carcass of a dead animal.

The joke going around town is that by the time our policemen leave Iraq, the Iraqis will already be playing *jueteng*. Some of them may even opt to stay behind and become the new gambling lords there.

Iraq is famous for "the thief of Baghdad" and "Ali Baba and the 40 thieves," but our cops, so the joke continues, can still teach them a thing or two. They can teach the Iraqis other means of livelihood such as kidnapping, bank robbery and carjacking. They can even add new words to their vocabulary such as "kotong cop."

Cruel, cruel jokes.

Also the butt of jokes are the three tenors

(Secretaries Angelo Reyes and Joey Lina and MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando) after their Tuesday concert at the Manila Hotel. "Other singers need not worry about the competition, but their performance as singers," said one joke, "is still much better than their performance as Cabinet secretaries."

But a group of businessmen complained bitterly: "We already paid P5,000 a head, but we were still forced to listen to them sing!"

The concert was postponed because they couldn't sell enough tickets—until the Department of Interior and Local Government entrusted the selling to policemen. That is why, said a joke, there were many Chinese in the audience.

The annual NVM Gonzalez Awards for the short story is now open to all Filipino writers in English. The award carries a grand prize of P50,000.

Short stories in English published from November 2002 to Oct. 15, 2003 are eligible for the contest. Editors of university and college publications as well as national magazines are encouraged to submit their choice of entries.

Entries must be submitted in six copies of manuscript (typed double space) and one original published form, plus the author's bio-data to: NVM Awards, P-57 A. Mabini St., Area I, UP Campus, Diliman, QC 1101.

For inquiries, you may call Chitty Cortes at 921-6429 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) or e-mail at nvmink@yahoo.com.

The award honors the late National Artist for Literature NVM Gonzalez and seeks to preserve and encourage excellence in the short story among Filipino writers.

KAPIHAN NOTES: Guests at next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila are Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who will be interviewed on what he plans to do if he becomes president (if there is a presidential election), and Rep. Imee Marcos who will explain why there may not be elections next year.

Means and ends, too

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



largely as a miscellaneous item. Something you spared some time to only after everything else was settled. That attitude had to change, everyone said. Culture and spirituality were not at the fringe of life, they were at the center of life.

I said that was true, and suggested the change of attitude should begin at the forum itself. Specifically by producing a document that reflected culture and spirituality, one to begin with, that used a language that embodied culture and spirituality. A poetic or lyrical language was not out of the question. Indeed, non-verbal language—dance, music, kinetic art—wasn't out of the question. I couldn't see why a call for spiritual change shouldn't use artistic—closest kin to spiritual—expressions.

That suggestion was lost on most of the delegates. Impatient to be heard, they produced a document as dull, programmatic and enumerative as those of the groups proposing political and economic reforms. It was an agenda for spiritual rejuvenation entirely lacking in spirit. I don't know that they were heard at all. I lost interest in it not long afterward.

I've never believed in the saying, "The means justifies the ends." My disbelief has little to do with morality, it has everything to do with common sense. Well, maybe not so common. The means does not justify the ends for the simple reason that the means determines the ends. The means creates its own ends. You cannot enforce fun by fascistic methods; you will only promote fascistic attitudes. You cannot uplift by dismal language; you can only encourage dullness. You cannot squeeze out the truth by inquisitorial means, you cannot en-

lighten people by deceiving, you cannot set people free by enslaving them; you can only foment paranoia, lies and bondage.

The concept of one country building a democracy in another country by occupying it, which George W. Bush keeps advancing, the last on a gunboat to celebrate his country's military victory against Iraq, is ridiculous. History has yet to record a people who learned the meaning of freedom and justice by being put in chains.

This country clearly shows what happens as a result of that contradiction. Americans like to say they taught this country democracy, through the Thomasites, through the Bill of Rights, through liberal tutelage. Maybe they did, but they did so only by seizing this country and turning it into its colony, by suppressing dissent, and by ingraining among the subjects the attitudes of subservience, dependence and gratitude. Those attitudes persist to this day, along with a public school system that hews to the principle of universal education, a Constitution big on civil liberties, and a government that prescribes the separation of powers.

What has happened is that we know, and have, the forms of democracy but we do not know, or feel, the substance of democracy. Or more plainly, we know the idea of freedom but do not know the meaning of freedom. The situation is not unlike a landlord who seizes the daughter of a peasant and makes her his servant, if not sex slave, and teaches her to be "proper." If she learns the meaning of dignity and freedom at all, it cannot be from his tutelage. It can only be from rebelling against him. Which is where our true understanding of freedom and democracy in fact comes from—not from colonial tutelage but from our rebellion, armed or parliamentary, against colonial rule.

The lesson is simple: How you do is what you do. You cannot take a path leading away from your destination, and hope to reach it. You cannot murder, and breathe life into the thing.

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Piatco's greed

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



NOTHING defines more starkly the greed and arrogance of Piatco than its demand that the government should pay \$500 million as its equity in the building of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

The claim is not only exorbitant (as we shall see) but its threat to block a temporary government takeover of the terminal, as authorized by the Supreme Court decision, is an affront to the state and to the Court itself.

Piatco behaves as though it is bigger than the Philippine state and the court and can effectively block implementation of the Court's decision. In its decision, the Court emphatically declared that "Piatco cannot, by mere contractual stipulation, contravene the constitutional provision on temporary government takeover and obligate the government to pay reasonable cost for the use of the terminal and/or terminal complex."

In context, the Court said the "welfare and interest of the public" are "paramount" in determining whether or not to temporarily take over a particular business. "The state in affecting the temporary takeover is exercising its (police) power," the Court held, and in the exercise of these powers, the state must not be unreasonably hampered nor its exercise be "a source of obligation by the government in the absence of damage due to arbitrariness of its exercise."

The government should not allow unnecessary delays in taking over the terminal to finish its construction. In view of the big majority vote on the decision, the prospects of overturning it are as good as stopping the earth from rotating on its axis. Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza is already disposed to accommodate delays on account of endless appeals for reconsideration. This is an important reason why Mendoza should not be in a government task force that is being planned to direct the takeover operations.

There should be two groups responsible for the takeover. The first, mentioned above, is about physical and technical preparation for the opening of the terminal at the quickest possible time. The second should be responsible for determining the

fair and equitable compensation to Piatco and its German partner, Fraport, for their investment.

In the determination of equity and rebidding of concessions at the terminal, it is absolutely necessary that the administration's actions and decisions be aboveboard and beyond suspicion. Any signs of unfairness and favoritism or emergence of new cronies will demolish completely the credibility of its anti-corruption campaign and wipe out the gains of the administration from the Court decision.

Piatco lawyers put its total expenses in constructing the terminal at \$500 million. Additionally, Piatco wants the government to reimburse the P780 million it claims to have paid the government for the relocation of the Air Force hanger and other hidden costs.

What Piatco did not mention is that the government paid millions of pesos to Nayong Pilipino for the land used in building a diversionary road after Piatco failed to build a tunnel between Terminal 2 and 3 for cargo transfers. The government also had to pay for the construction of the road. This diversion road, which effectively destroyed Nayong Pilipino, illustrates how public interest was prejudiced by deviations in the 1997 Concession Agreement.

All these five contracts were declared null and void by the Court because they were riddled with irregularities and gave Piatco advantages amounting to establishing a monopoly of control over airport-related services.

The equity claim of \$500 million is out of proportion to Piatco's investment in the project and looks like a grab for Fraport investments. The

Senate blue ribbon committee, chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo, concluded that "the award of the project to Piatco despite Piatco's inadequate finances created an anomalous situation whereby the Cheng Yung group, which contributed only \$16.5 million, obtained control over the management of Piatco, lorded it over the company when Fraport eventually refused to work with them."

The blue ribbon committee report pointed out that Fraport invested \$103.5 million in total equity and \$255 million in loans, advances and guarantees, but its stock-holdings in Piatco amounted to only 30 percent.

The committee report said that "the entire exercise that led to the construction of Terminal 3 was tainted with anomalies every step of the way" and that the "contracts covering this project are void."

In its report to its stockholders on June 30, 2002, Fraport said that its overall exposure in the terminal project went up to \$377.9 million. The report recalled that at Fraport's general meeting on June 26, 2002, it announced it "would make no further financial transfers to Piatco until progress has been made in negotiations" with the Philippine government over the possible transfer of the project from Piatco to the Philippine state. This refers to the option of a Philippine buyout of Fraport's equity in the project in which, Fraport complained, Piatco has "substantially used up its available liquid funds."

The Court found that the Paircargo Consortium, the precursor of Piatco, was not a qualified bidder as it failed to come up with the minimum investment requirement set by the government. Thus, the Court held, "the award of the contract... to Paircargo Consortium, a disqualified bidder, is null and void."

The Court said that the total net worth of Paircargo, "after considering the maximum amounts that may be validly invested by each of its members is P558,384,871.55 or only 6.08 percent of the project cost, an amount substantially less than the prescribed minimum equity investment required for the project in the amount of P2,755,095,000 or 30 percent of the project cost."

Meaningful performance

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



WE often hear of local cultural groups which go on tours abroad, enthrall their audiences, win good reviews or even prizes in competitions, and thereby reap honors for the country. But even the glowing press releases and reviews by foreign critics can't convey the full meaning of such performances. For members of the audience abroad, especially overseas Filipinos, the shows do not just show off the Filipino's innate talent for song, dance and the other arts, but also bring with them a small slice of the islands, a glimpse of the past, and a feeling of kinship with a country and people long consigned to memory and nostalgia.

The UP Concert Chorus recently went on a performance tour in the United States organized by the Council of Filipino-American Associations. J.P. Paredes, a resident of Seattle, Washington, drove all the way to a UPCC performance at the New Hope Community Church in Portland, Oregon. And while skeptical at first, he confesses to having been transported by the experience, if not physically, then at least emotionally, back to the country of his youth and dreams.

I have to thank Ruffy Ignacio, a stalwart of the Fil-American community in Seattle, who drove with Paredes to the performance, for sending me this review. Paredes would also like to acknowledge the leadership of Eric and Vivian Tadeo of the Council of Filipino-American Associations, who worked to fill up the church with an appreciative audience, both from the mainstream and from the Fil-Am community. Here are excerpts from Paredes' review:

BEFORE I get into the merits of the performance, I was pleasantly surprised to learn from the organizers that the UPCC is composed of some 38 members that include the conductor, Jai Sabas-Aracama, her husband Felix, pianist Ena Aldecoa, choreographer Ernest Hojilla, and the cast of performers, all extremely talented kids not much older than my own.

The show consisted of three parts: the first composed of spirituals; the second of classic and pop Filipino songs; and the last part of Broadway numbers. The repertoire certainly had

something for everybody and the first part set the mood for the whole show. Indeed, spiritual songs like "St. Michael's Mass," "The Prayer," "Hallelujah" and "Unshakeable Kingdom" reminded us that the setting was after all a church.

Classic Filipino songs and songs of more recent vintage certainly satisfied the demand of one of my anonymous seatmates yearning for more Filipino songs. Songs like "Bagong Umaga" and "Dugong Pilipino" aroused the latent nationalistic fervor if not the longing for the familiar as we reminisced within the heart of our motherland's bosom. The depiction of the Philippines as an abused symbol certainly tugged at my heart, enough to make me want to cry.

Capping the performance was the rendition of mainstream Broadway pieces, confirming that the UPCC can compete with the best that the world could offer.

THE COSTUME design for each of the three parts definitely added color, luster and enhanced the effect of the songs. The color and fashion design blended so perfectly with the movements and the symbolism evoked by each song, a visual delight.

The choreography was excellent. Kudos to the very young choreographer Ernest who has the right instinct and feel for the appropriate movements called for by the songs. Let me be bold enough to crown him a genius of symbolism through movement.

The kids performed as compleat and professional dancers, giving total life to the songs rendered. From my vantage point on the balcony, I could see how the movements all flawlessly

blended together and how each would symbolize the concept evoked, like flight. And the conductor, Jai, had a flawless movement—I could not determine if her hands followed the music or the music her hands. They were as one.

One thing that struck me was that not all the members are music majors. Several are students of engineering, physics, political science, tourism, education and other courses. They sacrificed a semester of school and spent money just to represent the country around the globe. They are indeed true heroes because while they enjoy their work, they probably don't realize that they are creating a more favorable view of Filipino talent than any extensive seminar or workshop could even hope to achieve.

Finally, I observed how the audience got into the act with gusto, having applauded the UPCC with several standing ovations. Hey, I had to find another seat because the guy beside me couldn't help but sing along. I preferred to listen to the UPCC's version.

IN ALL, the performance of the UPCC was an exercise in cultural upliftment, a feeding of the spirit that seeks the familiar but inexpressible longing for the intangible yet real hunger for the arts.

Whether or not they realize it, the UPCC brings not only honor and pride to their expatriate kababayans but also prove to Filipino-Americans and mainstream alike that Filipinos possess a wealth of talents.

As a parting note, we learned that each member had to produce about \$2,000 for the whole tour. The host organizations in Olympia and Seattle, Washington, had to pass the hat for donations after the performance, with good results, but such donations should not have been necessary if the kids had the full backing of the Philippine government. The honoraria from host organizations are not enough to cover expenses. Let us send more cultural groups like the UPCC abroad instead of junketing politicians. That way we get more value for the money.

US fear for a cripple

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



BEFORE AND during the 1998 Centennial celebrations, there were a number of protests from people who felt that the emphasis on the events and personages of June 12, 1898 was a form of brainwashing, which gave people a warped version or sense of history.

Naturally, in those heady days, those protests went unheeded. Worse, the critics were considered killjoys. Everyone enjoyed the parade, the fireworks. The nationwide fiesta atmosphere was only rivaled by Edsa I, Edsa II and the visit of the Pope.

Looking back on 1998, I realize that our commemoration was actually an act of forgetting, that we, in effect, walked a thin line between memory and amnesia.

By commemorating the declaration of independence of June 12, 1898, our vision stopped with the Philippine Revolution against Spain. Everything that followed, especially the Filipino-American War, was swept under the rug.

Fortunately, we have another chance to remember and redeem ourselves. On May 13, the country remembers Apolinario Mabini on the centenary of his death in a house by the Pasig River in Nagtahan. This simple house of wood with a thatch roof now stands in the PSG compound across Malacañang. It was transferred from its original site, I was told, when Nagtahan bridge was built. In this house Mabini, the "Sublime Paralytic," died of cholera two and a half months after he arrived in the Philippines in February 1903. He endured 25 months of exile in Guam.

As a condition for his return, he was asked to take an oath of allegiance to the United States. Mabini refused.

In January 1903 W. H. Taft wrote the US secretary of war:

"The question of the power of the Government to detain Mabini at Guam is not one on which I am called upon to express an opinion. I do think, however, that for self protection it is within the power of this Government to deny to any person

seeking to land within the Archipelago the opportunity to do so unless he will take an oath to be loyal to the Government while in the islands and to acknowledge the sovereignty of the United States. Such a law is now in force. Certainly the Government of the United States might very well say to Mabini that it would not carry him from Guam to the Philippine Islands unless it could be assured that he would take such an oath and thus be admitted to the Archipelago. Mabini has been a consistent opponent of American sovereignty and a persistent inspirer of rebellion and insurrection. He was for a long time the chief adviser of Aguinaldo. He has manifested such skill and cunning in his appeals to the people of the Philippine Islands against the American Government, and may be said to be 'the most prominent irconcilable among the Filipinos.' His physical infirmity, of course, has appealed to the imagination of the Filipinos and to the pity of all who have seen him. His consistent course of opposition to the Government, in prison, and out of prison, his physical condition as a hopeless paralytic, and his gentle and courteous manner, have all served to place him in the attitude of a martyr and to give him that kind of influence and popularity which it may be supposed would come from such qualities and circumstances.

"As a matter of fact, while in custody in Manila he was much more comfortable than when he was at his home, and I presume the same is true of his life at Guam, and that so far as personal comfort is concerned he is better off where he is.

If he were allowed to come to Manila he would form a nucleus for all the discontented elements which he would be certain to encourage in every form of plot and conspiracy against the existing government. Nothing he writes, nothing he says, but contains unjust insinuations against the American Government and its good faith. The claim that he is just as well able now to decide in Guam whether he will take the oath as when he comes to Manila, is a palpable pretence. What he desires is to be brought to Manila, because he thinks that even if imprisoned here he will form a point of concentration for the rapidly diminishing number of irreconcilables in these islands.

"I think it would be unwise to allow him to come unless he is willing in advance, by his oath of allegiance, to agree not to plot against this Government. This Government we are sworn to maintain, and a policy of allowing openly avowed enemies of our Government in our sight to take steps to inaugurate conspiracies and plots against it, is not one that I favor. All that Mabini has to do to secure his liberty and his return to these Islands is to take the oath by which he agrees that he will not plot and conspire against the existence of this Government. If he is not willing to make this agreement then he ought not to come into the country. One can have an admiration for his consistency and his utterly wild dreams of benefit to his country from independence without being in favor of exposing the Government, which is doing more for the Filipino people than any government did, to the danger of disturbance and conspiracy which his presence would promote and of a possible new insurrection, which could work nothing but misfortune and hardship to the people whom he thinks he loves and would aid."

They say we are often honored by our enemies. This letter reflects the fear and respect the United States had for a quiet cripple in Nagtahan.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@atenao.edu

The Filipino doctor and 4 US soldiers

IT was a dark stormy night. Thunder and lightning seemed to shake our nipa house and its big balcony facing the rice field at the foot of a mountain. When a strong gust blew, our house would sway like a hammock.

I thought of my father, a doctor who might be out there somewhere, wet and cold, treating sick and wounded guerrillas. We had not seen him for weeks.

When I woke up the following morning, I saw that all our banana and coconut trees had been blown down by the storm. Children were busy eating fruits and young coconuts strewn on the ground.

A week later, Tatay came home looking very tired but happy. He went

to bed at once and slept like a log. A big, fat pig was slaughtered and delicious dishes were prepared for him.

Our neighbors, mostly cousins of my father, came over for dinner, bringing with them cooked root crops and vegetables, fruits, a guitar and the indispensable tuba.

During dinner my father told everyone that Gen. Douglas MacArthur was going to return to our country soon to liberate us from the Japanese. He said he learned about this from four young American soldiers, who had been washed ashore during the typhoon.

The fishermen who found the Americans on the shores of our town facing the Pacific thought they were all dead. They were so weak and their bodies were covered with bruises. The fishermen carried them in a hammock and brought them to Tatay for treatment.

The soldiers told them about the great naval battle between two powerful nations that took place off the coast of Eastern Samar. Many Americans perished at sea, but the Americans had emerged victorious against the Japanese Navy.

After a week of a much-needed rest, my father and his cousin, Jacinto Libanan, who was also a guerrilla, decided to see the American soldiers. I was happy to tag along. It was nice to feel the soft, cold breeze caressing my cheek and hear the birds singing up in the trees to greet a new day.

After two hours of walking through rice fields, brooks and hills, we reached the river where some guerrillas had a banca to ferry us across the river where my uncle, Francisco Operario, was waiting. He had prepared a delicious meal of broiled fish, kilawin and tinolang manok and rice.

"Please stay for the night," my uncle urged us. "We will have *litson* for dinner. I will invite my neighbors and let them bring tuba."

"I know the war is going to end soon," my uncle continued. "I visited your American patients, and they are doing fine. I found out that they are all college students. The eldest is 22 and the youngest is 19 years old. I am going to invite them to our barrio fiesta's dance. We will let them dance the *curatsa*. I am sure it will put a sparkle to their sad-looking eyes."

"I have to see and examine them soonest before they rejoin their comrades," my father explained.

Off we went again in the banca, reaching the place where the Americans were staying that afternoon. My father was very glad that the Americans were recovering fast. They looked healthy and well. My father thanked the guerrillas for taking care of them and feeding them well.

I was 8 years old then and it was the first time I had seen Americans. Their eyes looked so transparent that I wondered if they could really see. Their noses were so big and so long that I touched my small nose. I thought it must be very uncomfortable to have them for life. I thanked God for giving me the most wonderful nose in the world.

Less than a month after we visited the Americans, our neighbors were ready to return to our hometown of Sulat. The Japanese had been driven out of Samar after several fierce battles by our brave guerrillas. There were talks that General MacArthur and President Sergio Osmeña had landed in Palo, Leyte. Though war had not yet ended, everyone felt that it was now safe to go home.

One night we held a party in our yard. It was the kind of party where everyone brought something to eat and that's why they called it a "bring the bring party." There was a lot of singing, dancing, shouting and laughing.

Everyone had learned to love the farms where they had evacuated as soon as the war broke out. The farms yielded bountiful harvests of rice, fruits and vegetables and there was plenty of poultry, pigs and carabaos. Everyone was thankful to God for His blessings. No Japanese ever came near our farm throughout the long years of the war and the Japanese that occupied our town for a short time were kind.

While everyone went home to Sulat, our family was going to Taft, also in Samar, so that my father could help my *ni-nong*, Dr. Valerio Adigue, treat the guerrillas who had driven the Japanese away.

I woke up before anybody else was up. We were leaving after breakfast. I gathered a handful of beautiful wild flowers and then went to the waterfall and put my head under the cold, cold water like we often did before taking a bath in the brook. Then I went to the brook and threw the wild flowers to its running water. I closed my eyes as tears rolled down my cheeks. This was my home, my beloved, beautiful home. I could have lived here forever.

Then I felt someone tap my shoulder. "So you have bade goodbye to the fairies," my father observed.

I nodded. "Tatay, the Americans. Where have they gone?" I asked.

"They have joined their comrades and I'm happy for them," he said. "But I thought you had forgotten them."

"No I can't forget their sad smile," I said.

My father told me they were still mourning the death of their classmates and friends who went down with their ship at sea. One soldier had told us between sobs about a dear childhood friend of his. They had grown up together like brothers. He was a college student, so handsome, full of life, hope and dreams. He was the only child, and his friend wondered how his family would take the news that they would never see him again.

"We must be thankful to the Americans who have come to help liberate our country from the Japanese," Tatay said. "But we must always be grateful and remember with fond memories the thousands of Filipinos who died for our dear Philippines. Also the living heroes, who are often forgotten."

I embraced him and thanked God for giving me a hero for a father. Then hand in hand we walked steadily toward a new world.

Mercia O. Apita, 67, is a retired nurse.

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Killing field for suspected NPA sympathizers in Mindoro

THIS is in response to the INQUIRER editorial last April 28, denouncing the killings of human rights workers Eden Marcellana and Eddie Gumanoy in Oriental Mindoro.

The killings of the two martyred activists have received tremendous media mileage. But the truth is that for about two years now, Oriental Mindoro had become a virtual killing field for suspected NPA sympathizers and leaders of progressive movements. Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation is correct in widening the scope of the investigation to include other victims of military atrocities and human rights violations.

Having witnessed an exhumation and from the testimony of the families of the victims, it can be proven that various forms of torture were inflicted, including the mutilation of ears and tongues, burning of live victims, shooting unarmed vic-

tims at close range and beheadings. Such acts are barbaric and such horror is unprecedented in the history of the province. But these incidents received little media attention compared to the lamentable murder of the more prominent human rights activists.

We, in the Church, did try to call the government's attention to this "reign of terror." A position paper calling for peace and an end to military atrocities signed by all the members of the clergy in the province on Dec. 10, 2002 was submitted to the Office of the President. We appealed to the concerned government agencies to act on the matter.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes directed the AFP chief of staff to conduct an investigation, while the Commission on Human Rights conducted its own investigation. But all these didn't lead to a single conviction. On the contrary, Col. Jovito Palparan, head of

the 204th Infantry Brigade, was even promoted and commended for his brand of anti-insurgency campaign! Thus, our people can be forgiven for thinking that once the publicity has subsided, the case will end up whitewashed and forgotten.

But there is hope in the initial pronouncements of investigators from the Department of Justice. Pointing the finger at the military came as a surprise. Because of this, we can say that maybe state-sponsored terror isn't back.

We call on President Macapagal-Arroyo to pursue her resolve "to get to the root of the matter soonest." The people in our province pray that the reign of terror will soon be over.

In this Easter season, we hope that darkness and evil will not triumph.

—FR. EDWIN A. GARIGUEZ,
Provincial Peace Forum,
peasant-net@eudoramail.com

Casualties of World War II

I AM a student of journalism in Holland and spent over a year in the Philippines doing volunteer work the first time and then writing articles about the problems in Mindanao. When I was in Maguindanao last Feb. 18, I read the column of Michael L. Tan titled "Memories of war," with great interest. My personal interest has to do with human rights and the damage done to such rights by wars. I am also quite knowledgeable about World War II.

I found it interesting that a Filipino would write about Europe and the impact of World War II. That should be flattering in a way to many Europeans.

However, there was an error in the sentence saying that "World War II claimed 50 million lives worldwide, about 10 million of them in Europe."

That is not true. The war in Russia alone killed about 25 million people. Estimates of casualties put the number of those killed at five million in Poland, one million in Yugoslavia, five million in Germany and six million in the Holocaust. About the number of dead in other European countries, I am not sure. But certainly the number of casualties in Europe was unfortunately much higher than 10 million.

Still, I was interested to read about this in the INQUIRER. In my opinion, it is the only newspaper I could find in the Philippines which has quality.

—WOUTER KULCHE,
Van der heimstraat
74 2582SB Den Haag,
Holland

Parañaque cop shielding abusive fireman

THE PHILIPPINE National Police can never achieve efficiency for as long as it keeps its inept members. Misfits in the organization will always derail the attainment of its vision of peace and order.

A desk officer in Parañaque City shamelessly shielded a fire truck driver who had willfully damaged three tricycles after entering a narrow, one-way street in Sto. Niño, Parañaque City.

At around 9 p.m. last April 30, the fire truck with plate number SEC 814 came roaring through Sto. Niño and did not slow down as it passed a crowd holding a wake at one corner. He entered the one-way street in spite of heavy traffic moving in the opposite direction. He wouldn't listen to reason and drove forward while yelling at other drivers.

The driver was evidently flaunting his authority as a fireman. "Paano kung may sunog?" was how he justified his abusive behavior.

But there was no fire that time. And it was obvious that he was drunk. He recklessly drove even after he had forced a tricycle to

ram into a concrete wall. Three tricycles were damaged by his reckless behavior. But instead of apologizing, he blamed the drivers for not giving way to his fire truck.

At the barangay police station, he continued bullying tanods and other barangay officials. He refused to give his name or driver's license to a police officer, whose jeep he had nearly sideswiped.

The worst was the attempt at a whitewash by the desk officer on Block 2 who did not even call the attention of the four complainants. When this writer requested the name of the offender, he said the case could be fixed.

How can discipline be enforced when law enforcers are themselves undisciplined? How can the public be protected when offenders are coddled by the police?

Is the law helpless against such rascals? Perhaps only Interior Secretary Jose Lina can help identify the culprit.

—MODESTO M. NUÑEZ,
Better Living Subd.,
Parañaque City

Malabon politics detrimental to citizens

IN THE PAST nine months, political bickering in the City of Malabon has resulted in the suspension of Mayor Amado Vicencio twice. I am saddened by this, not for any political consideration but simply because eventually it is the people who suffer from the consequent instability and the disruption of the delivery of basic social services.

Some groups are using the Office of the President through the

Department of Interior and Local Government to issue a drastic and unjust suspension, without utilizing other available means to resolve the dispute. By allowing her office to be used, President Macapagal-Arroyo has turned Vicencio an underdog and a hero and she has alienated herself from the poor, who constitute the majority of the population here.

I appeal to the President to set-

tle the dispute with the welfare and good of the people of Malabon as the only consideration. She should order a stop to political maneuverings and deceit and direct our local leaders to work for the good of the people and not for their selfish interests!

—REV. FR. ADRIAN M. MAGNAIT,
Sts. Peter & John Parish,
34 Orange Rd., Potrero,
Malabon City

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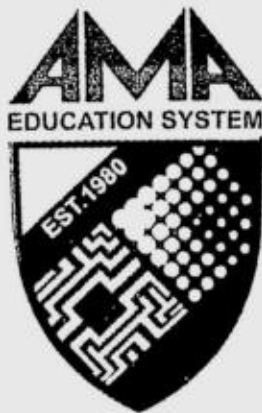


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By:

ALMAZAN VELOSO NUEVA PLACIDES & PARTNERS
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MILF attack on Siocon

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has shown once again its ability to outsmart the military and cripple one of its command posts in Siocon town.

The civilians are either collateral damage or legitimate targets of the ongoing retaliatory attacks against the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The MILF had, before that, already warned the AFP Forces not to make military command posts or camps near the civilian population so that the civilians will not be caught in the crossfire in case such camps are attacked. Similarly, civilians are advised to keep away from military posts and camps.

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

Therefore, the blame lies with the military for these civilian casualties.

Other civilians in Mindanao who openly support the military aggressions against the Muslim people are legitimate targets of such attack. Similarly those civilians who openly support the government's illegal occupation of Muslim lands are legitimate targets also. The civilians are therefore advised to pledge their neutral stand to the MILF leadership so that they would be spared from such kind of attack.

Everyone should keep in mind that the MILF and the government are in a state of war. In this situation, bombings and urban attacks can take place anytime and at any place. MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu warned of more attacks if the military did not pull out of the Buliok complex.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes is the one who started all this by undermining the peace talks and ordering the unexpected attack on the MILF position in Buliok. Reyes thought that by capturing Buliok, the entire MILF would be crippled. But three months have already passed since that attack and still the MILF is scoring against the military.

Muslims and Filipinos alike will never live in peace until and unless the problem in Mindanao is completely solved. However, there is only one final solution to this problem: conduct a referendum under United Nations and Organization of Islamic Conference supervision whereby the Muslims can freely express their vision of their political future: whether they want independence, autonomy or a federal form of government. Only this can solve the Mindanao problem.—Maganto

Well-spoken by a terrorist sympathizer. The terrorist spokesperson could not have done better in justifying their terrorist act.

How can civilians be legitimate targets? Nowhere in human history is this tolerated, except when the perpetrators are cowards who attack soft targets and make civilians human shields.

For your information, Mindanao has never been a Muslim enclave even before the Spaniards colonized the Philippines. True, there are Christian migrants from the north in recent history, but they are the minority. The majority are native-born Mindanaoans who were evangelized to the Christian faith. Muslims have never been the majority in Mindanao. The Muslim clerics were in the process of converting Mindanao when the Spaniards arrived. If Mindanao were a Muslim enclave, the Spaniards would not have stopped evangelizing even the provinces where they now claim to be the majority. I should know whereof I speak, being a native son of Mindanao with my roots anchored only in Mindanao and no place else.—langam

I've had some complaints about how Manila takes care of the provinces, particularly in Mindanao, but referendum for the separation of Mindanao? No way!

Do they know that even dead dogs can vote in Marawi City? I've had many Muslim friends since I was in high school and many of them admit (we were 14 years old then) that they voted three times in Marawi and other places for P500. You'll be amazed at the ingenuity of our Muslim brothers. Unfortunately, Hashim Salamat will definitely use that in a referendum.—alx

As expected, the problem in Mindanao is going to continue unabated unless the Philippine government opens its eyes to the reality that seeking peace with the MILF or its satellite groups is not going to lead to peace!

How can you expect a negotiated peace from this group which supports and instigates terror attacks? How?

You are even compounding the problem by making your mouths do the job!

Reyes' statement that "it won't go unpunished" has been heard for years and years now, and still the killings continue in that part of the country! The sad thing is that every time there is an encounter, there are more military personnel dead than bandits! Pitiful performance!—peyote

President Macapagal-Arroyo has offered a huge bounty. I doubt if it will amount to something. How about spending this money to arm local militia to counter the Abu Sayyaf bandit group and the MILF? At least, my neighbors in Mindanao will no longer be sitting ducks and the MILF won't be smiling when it says "collateral damage."—alx

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US seeks early lifting of UN sanctions on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS—The United States on Wednesday sought an early lifting of UN sanctions against Iraq that would free oil exports and suspend some trade restrictions that Washington imposed more than a decade ago.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, after visiting UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, said he expected to produce a Security Council resolution "this week" that would also give the United Nations a "vital" role in the country's future.

The draft is expected to be distributed to the 15 UN Security Council members on Friday, shortly before they start a weekend retreat. Failing that, it would be circulated on Monday, Bush administration officials said.

Powell said he was working with "all our friends" including Germany, France, Russia and China, who had opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq. "Whatever is in the past is in the past. We are not now talking about a matter of war. We are talking about a matter of peace," he said.

Diplomats said the draft would include an undefined political and economic role for the United Nations, which was to appoint a special coordinator.

A UN representative named by Annan would have a seat on a board that would oversee revenues from Iraq's oil industry, the envoys said. US oil executives, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are expected to be on the board.

The resolution would phase out the oil-for-food program but it is uncertain which or how many contracts currently in the pipeline will be honored, as Russia has insisted.

Without adoption of the resolution

no Iraq or US entity in Baghdad has the legal authority to export oil. Washington wants it adopted by June 3, when the oil-for-food program is up for renewal.

The multibillion-dollar program was designed to ease the impact of



AN IRAQI woman holds her child suffering from serious dehydration in the al Tahrir hospital in Basra May 7. Local hospitals reported at least 17 cases of cholera but the World Health Organization warns that hundreds more are possible in the southern city of Basra which faces problems with water supply and sewage disposal.

REUTERS

sanctions which were imposed when Saddam Hussein's troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990. The program, which now has more than \$12 billion, allowed Iraq to sell oil to purchase civilian goods under UN

supervision. Oil revenues are deposited into a UN escrow account, which is used to pay suppliers.

But the draft resolution does not call for the return of UN arms inspectors to verify that Iraq no longer has alleged weapons of mass destruction, as specified in UN resolutions and which several council members have demanded.

Close US ally Britain just signed on to the text of the resolution, which had been a subject of dispute between the State Department and the Defense Department, diplomats said.

Separately, US President George W. Bush said in Washington he would suspend a 1990 US law, the Iraq Sanctions Act, because Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was no longer in power.

The action would lift trade restrictions on US firms, including licensing of industrial and commercial projects or restricting exports of US goods, technology and services.

US Treasury Secretary John Snow said some US sanctions would be lifted immediately, allowing US residents and private groups to send up to \$500 per month to any person in Iraq for humanitarian purposes.

Bush, after a session with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar on Wednesday, said he thought there was a changed atmosphere in the council.

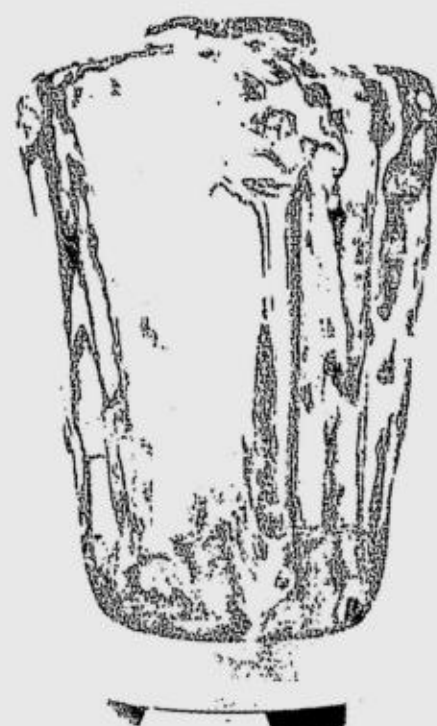
"We believe there is a mood to work together to achieve a resolution that will expedite the reconstruction of Iraq," he told reporters.

But so far Russia and France, while saying they would be flexible, have advocated a final lift of sanctions, rather than a suspension, after the UN inspectors were back on the ground.

To get support, senior US officials are traveling to Moscow and Berlin as well as lobbying Mexico and Pakistan.

Reuters

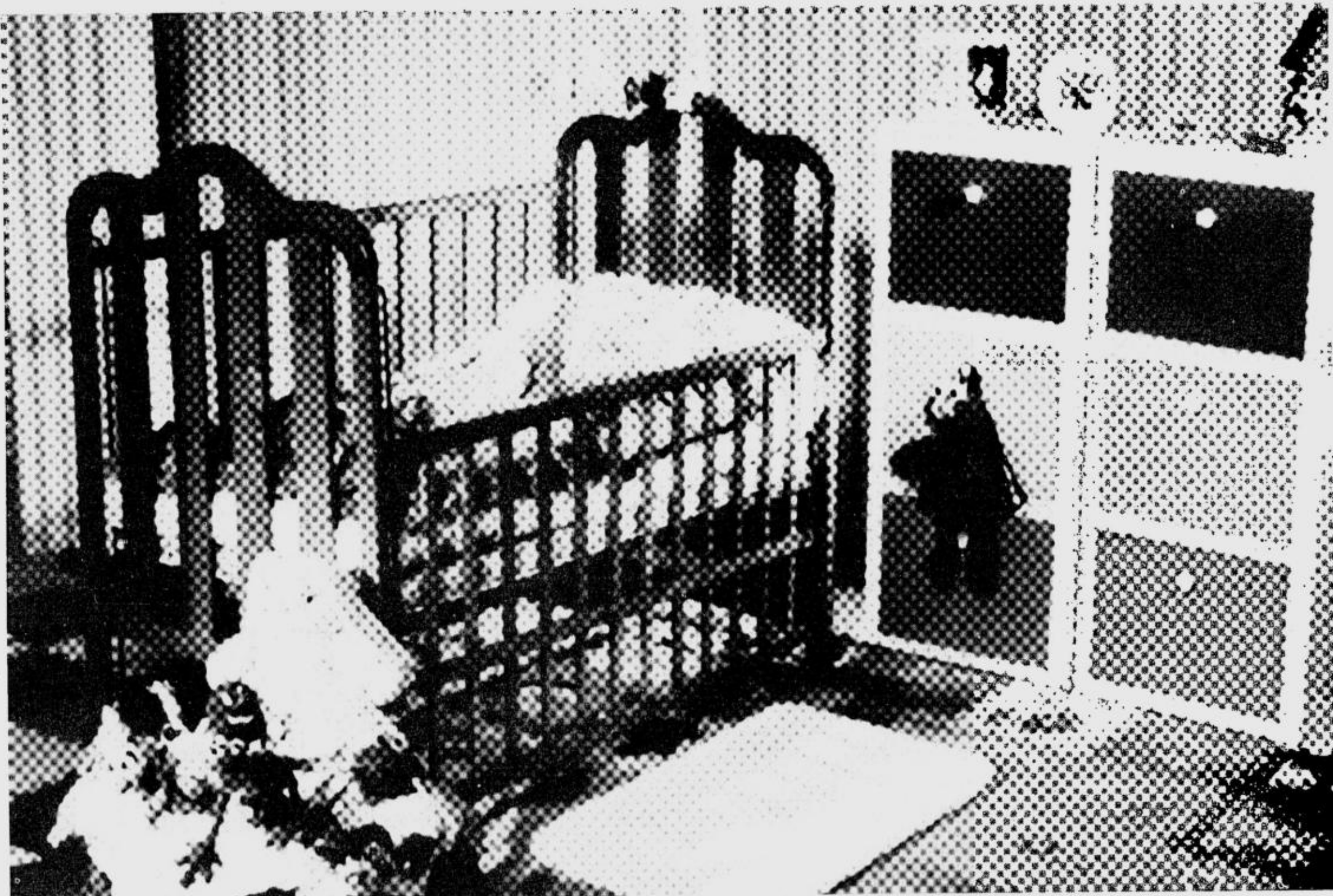
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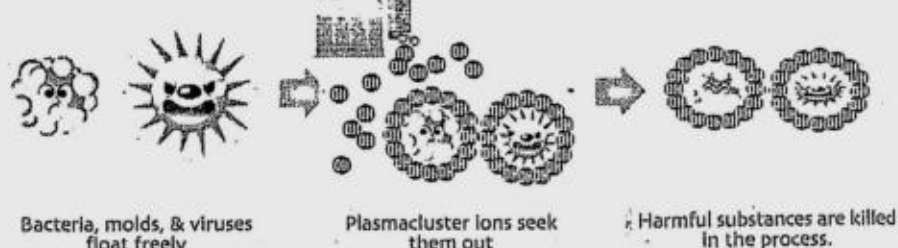
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India cool to Pakistan's olive branch offers

NEW DELHI—Measures offered by Pakistan to improve bilateral ties with India were greeted coolly in New Delhi Wednesday, with the government saying they will be considered "in due course" depending on Islamabad's action on Islamic militants.

"These measures can be considered in due course... (when) there

is evidence of Pakistan taking firm and credible action against cross-border terrorism and to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism," foreign ministry spokesperson Navtej Sarna said.

The ministry in a statement responded to a slew of proposals late Tuesday made by Pakistan Prime Minister Zafarullah Jamali,

including the release of Indian fishermen, steps to restore sporting ties and upgrading Pakistan's diplomatic mission in New Delhi.

Jamali's announcement was in response to a May 2 offer by his Indian counterpart Atal Behari Vajpayee to restore full diplomatic and air links.

On the air links proposal, Sar-

na said India had sought confirmation from Islamabad on whether it included both direct air services as well as overflights.

He rejected the trade proposals of Pakistan as "clearly inadequate."

But Sarna said India had made a request to Pakistan on the appointment of a new high commissioner in Islamabad.

India welcomed Jamali's announcement to release its prisoners and resume air links.

Earlier Wednesday, India's ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said the proposals were "completely inadequate."

"These offers are superficial because as long as the core issues are not addressed, there will be no con-

ducive atmosphere," BJP spokesperson Vijay Kumar Malhotra said.

He identified the key issues as "cross-border terrorism," as New Delhi terms the flow of Islamic rebels into its zone of Kashmir; militant training camps in the Pakistani sector of the divided state; and alleged sponsorship of the militants by Pakistan's secret service. **AFP**

Pentagon triples size of team hunting for banned arms in Iraq

WASHINGTON—About 2,000 more experts are being sent to Iraq to help look for banned weapons as well as regime leaders, terrorists and more.

The team is more than triple the size of the force now searching for weapons and larger than was previously described. It will be headed by a two-star general in defense intelligence, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

The Defense Department also confirmed it is investigating what officials said may be the most promising discovery so far—a trailer truck they say could turn out to be the first mobile biological lab recovered since the start of the war to disarm the government of Saddam Hussein.

The Bush administration alleged that Iraq had chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs and said the main reason for the war was to destroy them. Despite weeks of searches at more than 100 sites, officials have reported

finding nothing conclusive so far.

Although Pentagon officials suggested some Iraqi units were armed with chemical weapons just days before the war, none were found when those units were overrun. Officials said again Wednesday at a Pentagon news conference that finding the "smoking gun" will take time.

Asked if prewar intelligence was flawed, Defense Intelligence Agency Director Vice Adm. Lowell Jacoby said it was far too soon to tell.

"This is piecing together a major jigsaw puzzle, and we are only just beginning... to work the puzzle," Jacoby said.

Maj. Gen. Keith Dayton of DIA will head the new group being sent to Iraq, called the Iraq Survey Group.

Consisting of some 1,300 military and civilian experts in computers, intelligence, weapons, demolition and other matters, the group also will have former UN weapons inspectors and 800 support personnel. They are

joining 600 military and civilian experts from the armed forces, FBI, CIA, Defense Threat Reduction Agency and elsewhere who are already hunting for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs.

Only half of the new group will devote itself to weapons. The others will be looking for and analyzing information on regime leaders, terrorists, war crimes, the former Iraqi intelligence service, atrocities and prisoners of war, Defense Undersecretary Stephen Cambone said.

Officials had previously said about 1,000 more were going to search for weapons, but never talked about the extra people for the other searches.

The Pentagon has said the United States may prosecute some figures for war crimes, and that soldiers are gathering information that can be used for the Iraqis to prosecute people who committed atrocities over the decades of Saddam's rule. **AP**



RUSSIAN VICTORY

A woman walks by a poster dedicated to Victory Day in central Minsk May 7. Belarus and other former Soviet republics will mark the victory of the Soviet Union over Nazi Germany in World War Two on May 9.

REUTERS

Al-Qaida seen preparing for new attacks

DUBAI—Al-Qaida is preparing a new attack in the United States on the scale of Sept. 11 after adopting a new operational structure which is impenetrable to US intelligence, a Saudi weekly reports in its Friday edition.

"An attack against America is inevitable," Al-Majallah quotes the Islamic militant network's newly appointed spokesperson Thabet bin Qais as saying in an e-mail to the paper.

Al-Qaida has "carried out changes in its leadership and sidelined the Sept. 11, 2001 team," the paper quotes bin Qais as saying.

"Future missions have been entrusted to the new team, which is well protected against the US intelligence services. The old leadership does not know the names of any of its members."

Bin Qais mocks concerns expressed by Washington about a possible al-Qaida attack on its consulate in the Pakistani metropolis of Karachi, saying the network's target is the United States itself.

"Of course, the US consulate in Karachi is a US interest and a staging post for Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel in Pakistan, but it doesn't necessarily constitute a pressing target."

"Striking it is not a priority for al-Qaeda compared with the plans under way preparing a new attack in the United States on the scale of Sept. 11." **AFP**

Favored oil giant Halliburton gets expanded role in Iraq

WASHINGTON—Oil giant Halliburton, once run by US Vice President Dick Cheney, will now be involved in operation and distribution of oil products in Iraq, the US military said on Wednesday, indicating a more direct role in Iraq's energy business than originally believed.

New orders given to Halliburton

subsidiary Kellogg Brown and Root a few days ago included the operation of oil facilities and the distribution of products, said a spokesperson for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Scott Saunders.

"We did not think that operation and distribution (of oil products) would be needed and that that would be handled by a fol-

low-on contract," said Saunders.

"But the needs of the Iraqi people dictated otherwise and we had to exercise that option as they are about to run out of gas and propane," he said.

Details of the role of the Halliburton subsidiary came to light via letters made public between the US Army Corps of Engineers

and Democratic Rep. Henry Waxman from California.

In a letter sent on Tuesday to the Army Corps of Engineers, Waxman said originally the contract had been described as one to extinguish oil well fires and do related repairs, but Halliburton now appeared to have a more lucrative and direct role in rebuild-

ing Iraq's oil industry.

"It now appears, however, that the contract with Halliburton—a company with close ties to the (Bush) administration—can now include 'operation' of Iraqi oil fields and 'distribution' of Iraqi oil," wrote Waxman to Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers of the US Army Corps of Engineers. **Reuters**



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Sex, negligence cited in Chinese spy indictment

LOS ANGELES—A retired FBI agent prosecutors say carried on a decades-long affair with his intelligence source was indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly allowing the woman access to secrets she passed on to China.

The grand jury indictment on charges of gross negligence and wire fraud was returned Wednesday in Los Angeles against James J. Smith, 59, for his role in the case of alleged Chinese double agent Katrina Leung.

It expands upon charges filed by the government in early April by alleging that Smith schemed to defraud the FBI by having an improper sexual relationship with Leung, failing to make truthful reports about her to the FBI and even convincing other FBI agents to file reports that concealed or omitted negative information about her. It also accuses Smith of mishandling information relating to the national defense.

According to court documents, Smith recruited Leung in 1982 to be an FBI "asset," providing intelligence on China, and also began a sexual relationship with her that year. Prosecutors say Leung then pilfered classified materials from Smith's briefcase when he visited her home and passed the information to Chinese intelligence agents.

Smith spent most of his 30 years in the FBI as a Chinese counterintelligence agent, retiring in 2000. He has been free on \$250,000 bond since shortly after his April 9 arrest on a gross negligence charge.

"We're extremely disappointed that the government is pursuing these charges," said his attorney, Brian Sun. He said Smith is innocent.

Leung, 49, code-named "Parlor Maid" by the FBI, is a prominent Los Angeles socialite and political activist who has been jailed without bond since her April 9 arrest. The government is expected to seek a grand jury indictment against her later this week.

Her attorneys issued a statement Wednesday saying she was being betrayed by the US government she loyally served.

"She is a loyal American who is being stabbed in the back by the people she worked for faithfully for over 20 years," said the statement by attorneys Janet Levine and John Vandeveld. "We expect her to be exonerated of any charge the government may choose to bring."

Both Smith and Leung are married to other people, and the indictment stressed the impropriety of their relationship.

"This sexual relationship violated FBI rules and regulations regarding relationships between handlers and assets," the indictment stated, "in that it deprived defendant Smith of the required objectivity in evaluating the ongoing reliability of Katrina Leung."

The wire fraud charges stem from asset evaluation reports about Leung that Smith sent periodically to FBI headquarters in Washington in 1998, 1999 and 2000. **AP**

Probe: Bloody 1998 Jakarta riots were planned

JAKARTA—Riots which killed more than 1,000 people in the Indonesian capital Jakarta in May 1998 were systematically planned, Indonesia's official human rights commission said Thursday.

The three-day riots "did not take place spontaneously but were systematically planned for widespread mayhem," said Enny Suprpto, from a team set up by the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) to investigate the violence.

"The widespread riots were instigated by groups of provocateurs who broke into buildings and shops and encouraged mobs to loot them. They did not take part in the action but instead they moved on to another area in the city," he said.

Suprpto did not say who was believed

to have organized the violence, which broke out just before longtime dictator Suharto resigned.

But he said investigators plan to ques-

tion several high-ranking military and police officers who were in charge of security at the time.

Suprpto said his team also concluded

that the widespread rapes and the burning of homes and businesses was systematic. Indonesians of Chinese descent were the main target of the rioters,

who caused massive damage in the Glodok district of the city.

A previous state fact-finding team concluded that at least 1,100 people were

killed and 1,400 buildings and homes were destroyed in the riots, triggered by the shooting death of three university students in the city.

AFP

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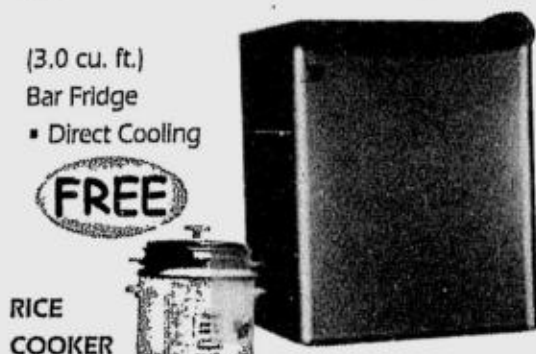
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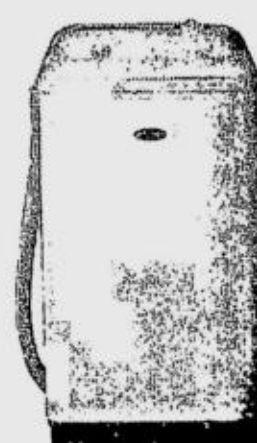
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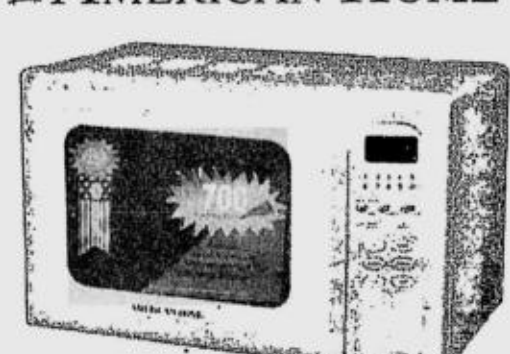
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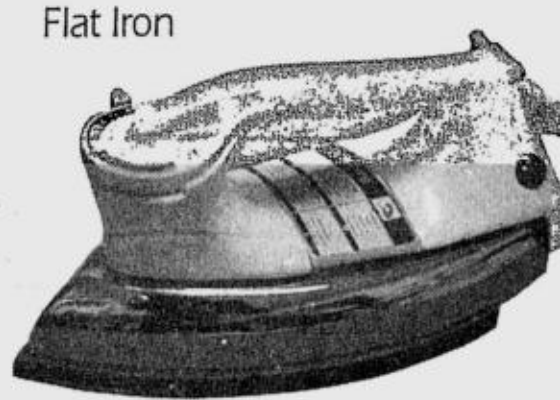
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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia



INTRUSION or assistance? A US soldier uses a metal detector to frisk a Filipino resident who was entering a temporary clinic set up by American soldiers for townsfolk of Laurel, Batangas.

Cops nab C. de Oro reporters for libel

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—"They are treating us like criminals."

This was how two journalists here described their arrests on Wednesday.

Joey Nacalaban, a photojournalist of Sunstar Cagayan de Oro, and Herbie Gomez, managing editor of Gold Star Daily, were arrested based on a P5-million libel suit filed against them by Tangub City Mayor Jennifer Tan.

The case stemmed from an article published by the Gold Star Daily alleging that Tan was one of the politicians who went to Germany at the expense of the State Power Development Corp., the proponent of the \$300-million coal-fired power plant to be constructed at the Phividec Industrial Estate in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental.

But Tan said she did not go to Germany.

Gomez said they ran another story with Tan claiming she went to Australia.

"Granting without admitting that she was in Germany, what is libelous there?" Gomez asked.

Gomez alluded to Tan as using the issue to cover up the real issue over the controversial coal-fired power plant.

"Who is she to decide the power condition in Mindanao? Why did she endorse the coal-fired power plant to the Regional Development Council (RDC) when it has been declared non-viable?"

Tan is chair of the Infrastructure Committee of the RDC in Northern Mindanao.

The two journalists said Tan's libel case against them was baseless and that they were also readying charges. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



COUNTDOWN TO JUSTICE

IT IS exactly 361 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapille (in photo), remains at large after having been allowed to escape while in the custody of the police.

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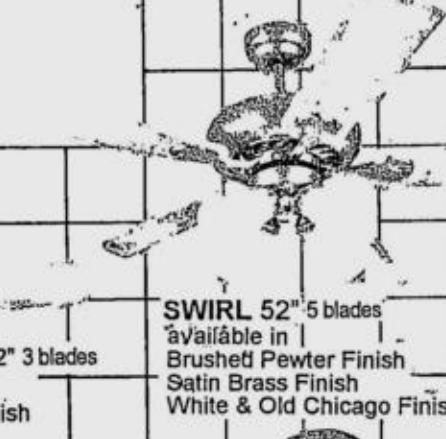


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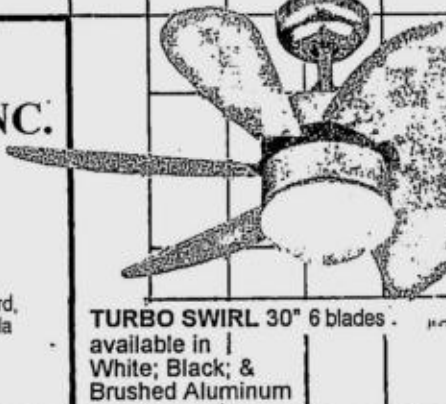
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Muslim solon tells US: Stop meddling

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A Muslim legislator urged US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone not to meddle with the domestic affairs of the country.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Paysah Dumarpa said Ricciardone was already trying to intrude into the country's internal problems when he issued a statement that the US might declare the Moro Islamic Liberation Front a terrorist group.

Dumarpa said the statement only fueled anger among Muslims toward the US.

She said if the US wants to help achieve peace in Mindanao, then it should bring in more development aid.

Dumarpa also urged the government and the MILF "to review their respective peace efforts policy."

"If I may suggest, the government shall first designate a special emissary, who has a moral and political influence and has the respect of

the MILF to initiate preliminary talks with them aimed at putting back a vibrant cease-fire agreement," she said.

But Dumarpa scored the MILF for its latest attacks on some parts of Mindanao, where most of the victims were civilians.

"How can you win their (civilians) heart if you are (forcing) them from believing in the moral or legal justification of your case?" she said.

Despite the recent atrocities, Dumarpa said it would be best for political leaders "to be sober."

"Refrain from rocking the boat for it could only (prove to) be disastrous to the efforts in putting an end to the centuries-old Mindanao conflict," she said.

Dumarpa said the government should also redirect its war budget to development programs on the island. *Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cops step up hunt for top leaders of MILF

COTABATO CITY—The police and the military Wednesday claimed they have stepped up the hunt for Moro Islamic Liberation Front chair Salamat Hashim and his top lieutenants, including the rebel group's military chief and peace negotiator Murad Ebrahim.

Supt. Alberto Salbo, regional director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said local police units in the region have been furnished with copies of warrants against ranking MILF leaders.

The elusive Salamat, along with Murad, Ghazali Jaafar, the MILF's political affairs chief, and MILF

spokesperson Eid Kabalu had been charged with the MILF's attack on Siocon.

The same set of MILF officials also has standing warrants for the Davao bombings that killed at least 48 people.

"There are standing arrest orders, we will serve it with full authority," Salbo said in TV interview.

But he did not say whether policemen would be sent to the jungles to look for the MILF leaders.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said the military was helping the police arrest the MILF leaders.

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, 6th

ID commander, predicted the fall of Salamat and his lieutenants in "just a matter of time."

But like Salbo, he offered no details on how the "fall" would take place.

"All our forces in south-central Mindanao are on alert following the issuance of arrest warrants against MILF leaders," this was all Senga said when pressed on what the military was doing.

Mohagher Iqbal, chief of the MILF's information committee, said they were not hiding at all.

It is an open secret that most MILF leaders live in Cotabato City and in nearby towns of Maguindanao. *Edwin O. Fernandez with Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 standards, 1 law on trade fairs in Baguio City

BAGUIO CITY—Forgetting about the city government's previous violations of a 1997 trade fair ordinance, the city council cracked down on the developers of Camp John Hay for defying the same law this year.

Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) was put to task for operating the Summer Country Fair on John Hay grounds in April and May, when, under Ordinance 49-97, trade fairs are prohibited here.

The same ordinance bars trade

fairs, baratillos and tiangges from operating in Baguio, particularly at Burnham Park, in December when Baguio tourism is considerably high.

The council was told that the city treasurer's office had already received P13,000 from CJHDevco as advance fees for the fair.

By accepting the CJHDevco payments, however, the government was "estopped." Estoppel is the legal condition where a litigant is blocked from enforcing rules by its very own actions.

Vice Mayor Betty Lourdes Tabada was told by a staffer of treasury office that the government had not prosecuted a single violator of the ordinance.

Gillian Yabut-Cortes, CJHDevco vice president for marketing, said the firm was unaware of the ordinance.

"But it is a good thing this issue cropped up. Now we know what we have been violating," she said. *Vincent Cabreza with a report from Angela Malicdem, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Cops raid peasant group's tent, arrest 4

The NPA and the Communist Party of the Philippines have been declared terrorist organizations by European countries and the United States. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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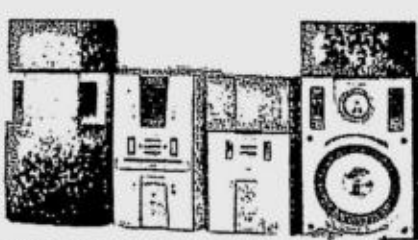
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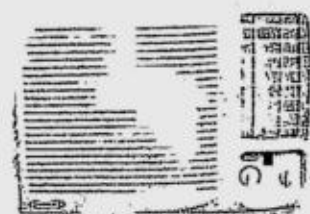
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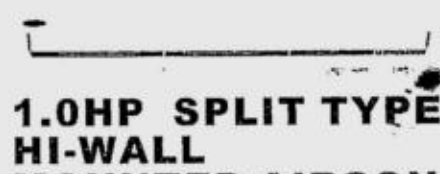
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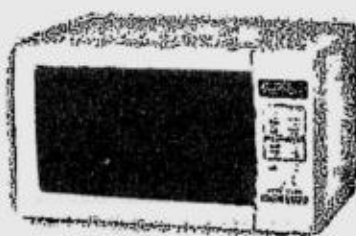
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GMA: Probe alleged AFP-Abu collusion

From page A1

in a speech to a religious group.

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong formed a panel led by Justice Undersecretary Mercedes Gutierrez to look into Burnham's allegation that a Filipino general had demanded a 50-percent cut of the ransom paid by the hostages to the Abu Sayyaf.

Datumanong assigned two state prosecutors to assist Gutierrez, and said the panel would "talk to the proper persons for [the] purpose of finding out [what actually] took place."

DFA spokesperson Vic Lecaros said acting Secretary Delia Albert had ordered the DFA's Office of American Affairs (OAA) to look into Burnham's claims.

"Conceivably, we will work [in coordination] with the two embassies in the two capitals," he said of the Philippine Embassy in Washington and the US Embassy in Manila.

Lecaros said the OAA would utilize diplomatic channels to "get to the bottom of the allegations."

He said it would be helpful if Burnham would return to the Philippines "to help in the prosecution."

Senators urged military, defense and justice officials to look into Burnham's disclosures.

They urged the officials to pursue the recommendations made last year by the Senate national defense committee, which found "strong circumstantial evidence of collusion between some military officers and the Abu Sayyaf in the aftermath of the 2001 siege of Lamitan, Basilan."

The committee had recommended the further investigation of the supposed collusion by the DOJ, AFP and DND, with the military convening a court martial to investigate Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Col. Juvenal Narcise and Maj. Eliseo Campued for their actions in Lamitan.

'What I was told'

Bunye, however, indicated how Malacañang was regarding Burnham's claim of collusion.

At his regular press briefing, Bunye released copies of and

read aloud portions of the transcript of Burnham's interview with the Fox News Channel, wherein the former hostage admitted that she came to know of the alleged collusion from the Abu Sayyaf itself.

"Well, that's what I was told, and I always prefaced that in my book by 'that was what I was told,'" Bunye quoted Burnham.

The missionary was responding to a question on the supposed collusion, particularly about the Filipino general who allegedly wanted 50 percent of the ransom.

"I didn't really accuse anyone," Bunye further quoted Burnham.

According to the transcript, Burnham said "Oh, that isn't what I believe" when asked if the military had been there not to protect her and her late husband Martin, but to share in the ransom payment with the Abu Sayyaf.

But Bunye, a lawyer, stopped short of saying that Burnham's claim was hearsay.

Asked if it was hearsay, he skirted the question and, referring to the transcript, said: "Those were the exact words of Mrs. Burnham."

After the briefing, Malacañang released an official statement titled "Gracia denies accusing military of colluding with Abu Sayyaf, says it did its best to save them."

The statement also quoted Burnham as saying in the Fox interview: "I think the military was trying their best to get us out of there."

In her speech, the President said she upheld the "valor and gallantry of our troops who sacrificed life and limb in the rescue of Mrs. Gracia Burnham."

In her directive to the DND and AFP to prohibit contacts with enemies of the state, she said: "There should never be any form of contact between troops and terrorists except armed contact."

Bunye said at the briefing that the government was confident that the contents of Burnham's book would not cause demoralization in the AFP.

"We believe our soldiers are professionals," he said. "They will not be distracted by these allegations."

Burnham had also alleged that



THE WAY they were: The Burnham couple are seen on TV for the first time on Jan. 22, 2002.

PHOTO GRAB, 48 HOURS, CBS/RUFFINO GONZALES II

it was military fire that killed her husband and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap in June last year.

Military spokesperson Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia told reporters that from Burnham's interview with CNN Wednesday night, "I think [it] is very clear ... that she does not bear any grudge against the military."

"We also have a transcript of the Fox interview where she said that what was published—that the military was in cahoots [with the Abu Sayyaf]—are all things that were told to her," he said.

Garcia said his impression was that Burnham had based her allegations on information given by either her Abu Sayyaf captors or "a source deliberately manipulating her mind."

"Would you expect the Abu Sayyaf to be telling Gracia Burnham all the truth?" he said. "Many of the things that they [said] were false, were wrong, [and said] deliberately to mislead her."

He said this could have been the case in her allegation that food was left for the Abu Sayyaf by government forces.

Those packages, he said, might have been left by some of the numerous negotiators who tried to mediate for the hostages' release.

"Under the conditions of great stress and pressurized environment that Gracia Burnham was in, we cannot blame her for having this misimpression, but she was quite succinct when she said that [the information] was not

first-hand," Garcia said.

Nevertheless, he said, the military would welcome any move to have the matter investigated.

Magsaysay committee

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the national defense committee, said it did not need to open a new investigation because it had touched on the collusion charge and recommended court martial for the three officers.

"I can understand the situation of Gracia Burnham and I sympathize with her," he said.

Magsaysay lamented that since his committee completed its report in August last year, the concerned agencies had yet to say "what they have done to our recommendation."

The committee said Dominguez, Narcise and Campued should be made liable for "violations of the Articles on War on misbehavior before the enemy, endangering the command because of gross negligence and carelessness, shamefully abandoning or delivering up any command, disorders and neglects to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, and displaying qualities unbecoming of officers and gentlemen."

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the President should order the AFP to investigate the matter.

"When we deliberate on the 2004 budget, I am certain that if no action is taken by that time by the [AFP] and the DOJ, their budgets

can be made to answer for these shortcomings, if there would be shortcomings," he told reporters.

Majority Leader Loren Legarda and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said Burnham should be invited back to repeat her allegations in court.

Legarda said that Burnham should name the general who supposedly demanded a 50-percent cut in the ransom payment.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the AFP should take the initiative in investigating the officers involved.

He said Burnham's revelations were "quite shocking," and urged the military to cleanse its ranks.

Sen. Ralph Recto, on the other hand, wants an independent body to look into the allegations, one composed of "retired jurists and retired military officials."

Support for AFP

At the House, congressmen rallied behind the military and expressed doubt over Burnham's claims.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, chair of the House committee on national defense, said it would invite Burnham back: "It is her responsibility to testify on her charges. Otherwise, we can say they only wanted to stir a controversy to sell the book."

Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano said Burnham's allegations were preposterous, questioned her motives, and called her an ingrate.

"Gracia only wants to sell her book," he said.

Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin said: "We should not forget that the bad guys here are the Abu Sayyaf."

Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico said it was unfair to condemn the AFP based on Burnham's general statement. He asked her to name names.

But Burnham's fellow ex-hostage, Raul "Buddy" Recio, lamented that the allegations of collusion were again falling on deaf ears.

"[The President] should have at least said that she will look into it. But that is expected of her, that is how government works," Recio said.

With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Martin R. Marfil, Christine O. Avendaño and Juliet Labog-Javellana

Basilan priest raps GMA for coddling military

By Armand N. Nocum

A PRIEST whom the Abu Sayyaf once took hostage chided President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday for supposedly not ensuring the punishment of military officials who had colluded with the bandit group.

In a phone interview with Church reporters, Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, parish priest of Lamitan, Basilan, also sought protection for witnesses to the supposed collusion. He said many of these witnesses were now leaving Basilan for fear of their safety.

"We are questioning the political will of the President. She should have been the one to order the investigation [of the military officials concerned]," he said.

Nacorda said the President should have paid serious attention to the testimony of witnesses, including himself, at congressional inquiries.

He said Ms. Macapagal's refusal to do this would "continue to eat at her credibility" and "cost her the respect of the people."

But he and the other witnesses would welcome any serious action from the President now that another former hostage, Gracia Burnham, has written a book confirming the supposed collusion, he said.

"She should have done it before when we were risking our lives telling the truth," Nacorda said of the President. "She should have ordered the agency concerned to take serious action. But we welcome her initiating meaningful action this time."

Still, he said, it did not speak well of the President to take action only after a foreigner repeated what he and other Filipinos had been saying all along.

Asked whether he would welcome a new round of congressional investigations on the matter, Nacorda replied: "Sobra na (There's been too many)."

SARS global death toll now exceeds 500

From page A1

va-based WHO doubled its estimated global death rate for hospitalized cases to 14-15 percent, with more than half of patients over 65 years old likely to die.

China announced five more fatalities and Hong Kong four, raising the global number of deaths to at least 507. SARS has killed 208 people in Hong Kong and 224 in

China—half of them in Beijing.

"The current SARS situation is still grim, and the economic impact is more pronounced each day," the official Xinhua News Agency said in its report of a Chinese Cabinet meeting that ordered measures to protect exports and investments.

Li Kui-wai, an economist at the City University of Hong Kong, predicted China's gross domestic

product could fall by one percent to 2 percent due to SARS.

120 bureaucrats fired

Worst-hit China announced that 120 bureaucrats had been fired or punished for mishandling or even concealing cases of SARS, which has triggered fears and mass quarantines across the world's most populous nation.

In one province, Communist Party members have been told to revive the ancient custom of bowing instead of shaking hands to prevent disease transmission.

One of the five new fatalities was from Shanghai—the first reported SARS fatality in the nation's commercial center and most populous city. In Hong Kong, a 100-year-old woman was among the new fatalities.

Highlighting the tragedy wrought by the epidemic, Taiwan said a young nurse, who had worked at a hospital during a SARS outbreak, died of the disease—just weeks before she was to deliver her first baby.

An official heading a government task force fighting SARS said infections may have expanded from hospitals into the general community.

"Our most important task at this point is to track down the sources of community infections," said Lee Ming-liang, a renowned medical doctor who was appointed this week to beef up and coordinate the island's anti-SARS forces. "It is a grim situation at this moment."

Travel warnings

The WHO imposed SARS travel warnings to Taipei as well as the mainland Chinese city of Tianjin and province of Inner Mongolia. In a statement, the UN health agency said that travellers should "consider postponing all but essential travel" to these three areas in addition to Beijing, Hong Kong and the Chinese provinces of Guangdong and Shanxi.

In Moscow, Russian officials ordered airlines to suspend reservations on flights to China, Hong Kong and Taiwan and to be prepared to cancel all flights.

So far, SARS has mostly been an urban disease. But authorities fear it might spread into the countryside, where the majority of China's 1.3 billion people live amid a



THEY'RE here: Hundreds of Hong Kong nationals arrive at the Naia on Thursday. The sudden rise in the number of tourists from Hong Kong is attributed to the SARS now raging in the former British colony.

shortage of doctors and hospitals unable to cope with epidemics.

WHO investigators were due on Thursday to go to Hebei, a province bordering Beijing and where there has been a marked surge in cases.

WHO officials in Geneva said it revised its initial death rate of 6 percent to 10 percent after studying data from Canada, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Vietnam.

According to new estimates, less than one percent of patients aged 24 or younger die. This rises to 6 percent for those aged 25 to 44, 15 percent for those aged 45 to 64 and more than 50 percent for those aged over 65.

Early this week, a separate survey of SARS cases in Hong Kong said one in five hospital patients in the territory were dying. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention so far puts the death rate at 6.6 percent.

In Taipei, hospitals have been ordered to set up outside centers to screen individuals for SARS symptoms before allowing them into emergency rooms.

With the outbreak worsening in the past two weeks, emergency rooms of all hospitals in Taipei have been filled with patients, said Taipei Mayor Ma Ying-jeou, who wore a gauze mask at the press conference.

"The fever-screening centers could give preliminary diagnoses and quarantine patients suspected to have Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome," Ma said. "The centers will begin operations by

Monday at the latest to ease the loads of emergency rooms."

'Angels in white'

Taiwan's Department of Health on Thursday reported another 22 probable and suspected SARS cases, taking the island's infections to 360, the third highest in the world after China and Hong Kong. China has 4,698 SARS cases while Hong Kong has 1,661.

Fourteen people have died of SARS. Chiu Shu-ti, Taipei's top health official, said 8,259 people were undergoing home quarantine in Taipei after having come into contact with SARS patients.

The disease has taken the lives of many health professionals. Doctors and nurses working in SARS wards across Asia are being hailed as heroes who put their own lives at risk to save others.

In China, they are being described by the state's propaganda machine as "angels in white."

One doctor who died after con-

tracting the virus on the job has been declared a revolutionary martyr, while others are being awarded medals.

US measures

In the United States, thousands of customs and immigration inspectors were being trained to spot SARS symptoms and were ordered to detain those who exhibit them as part of attempts to prevent a US outbreak.

US officials said travelers would be detained if they had possible signs of SARS, including high fever, dry cough, breathing trouble, or if they said they are experiencing these symptoms. A public health official would be summoned to give a medical evaluation.

In Washington, Homeland Security Department spokesperson Dennis Murphy said 22 major US airports would have public health officials on site. Reports from AP and AFP

Another puzzling pneumonia

AS THE DEBATE about the true death rate for SARS continued, a new unidentified pneumonia has appeared in the jungles of Cambodia. The outbreak has been controlled but seven people have died. Doctors say they are baffled by it just like they were initially by SARS.

SARS first surfaced as a mysterious illness in southern China last November, when it was called "atypical pneumonia." Its origins remain unknown, though some

suspect it was originally a farm animal virus that mutated to also infect humans.

The new illness in Cambodia has SARS-like symptoms including fever, coughing and breathing problems, but sufferers also have diarrhea and maintain normal white blood cell counts.

Doctors administered antibiotics and other drugs to villagers who resorted to traditional animal sacrifices and tribal prayers.

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'Sabaya berated GMA'

From page A1

"bahay kubo" on stilts on Basilan island because that was the number on the census sticker.

The hostages, Gracia's husband Martin included, were on the "second floor," and could hear parts of the meeting below. Guillermo Sobero, who became an American citizen only 12 days before the mass kidnapping, did not hear the conversation. The Burnhams did not want to unduly alarm him with the news that one of them may be executed, but eventually they did give hints about what was to come.

The deadline—3:15 p.m., Sunday, June 10, by the Burnhams' reckoning—passed without incident. But on Monday, June 11, the Abu Sayyaf and their hostages came under artillery fire for the first (but certainly not the last) time. Clearly upset, the Abu Sayyaf met in a huddle, and that night Sobero was led away.

Sobero's beheading, Sabaya later told the media, was an Independence Day gift for the President.

Riveting detail

Gracia's harrowing, ultimately hopeful account of her ordeal and that of the other hostages (more were added when the Abu Sayyaf took over the Lamitan hospital, including nurse Ediborah Yap) is full of such riveting detail and un-

expected disclosures.

It does not always get the Philippine nuance right—Gracia does not write about the Independence Day aspect, for instance, thus missing the full import of Sabaya's insult to the President—but it is marked by a generosity of spirit for the country the Burnhams had grown to love after 17 years of missionary service.

The book, co-written by Dean Merrill of the International Bible Society and released by the religious publishers Tyndale House, is candid throughout, and its very Western candor is certain to upset many.

She writes about business executive Reghis Romero's "connections," for instance. The day after they were abducted, Romero managed to get a government official to call Sabaya on his "sat-phone" and convince the bandit leader to release him for a sum, since Sabaya owed the official a "favor."

She writes about the indignities some of the women hostages endured—a low, mournful note that sounds through most of her narrative. She writes about the cruelty of the Abu Sayyaf, at one point arguing with them by using passages from the Koran, throwing what she calls their "verbiage" back at them, she says. She writes about the lack of training and lack of commitment of the Armed Forces, whose soldiers

would often stop fighting after dusk fell. "Oddly, the AFP didn't pursue us," she says about their escape from the Lamitan siege. "As time went on, we noticed that they never pursued us."

But Gracia is candid about herself, too. In her admissions of hatred, in her confessions of doubt, in her moments of weakness, she is unsparing. She also captures in print an abundance of good deeds that—like the 6 a.m. prayer sessions in Wichita, Kansas, or Martin's steady humor-laced optimism, or the fluorescent leaves her guard and guide Hurayra attached to his backpack—literally lit up the dark.

"In the Presence of My Enemies" (the title, of course, comes from Psalm 23, the Good Shepherd psalm) belongs rightly to the literature of captivity and liberation.

Military lapses

In countless interviews during the search for the Dos Palmas and Lamitan hostages, military spokespersons said troops pursuing the Abu Sayyaf were careful to spare the hostages. More than once, the safety of the hostages was used as the reason for the slow or even deliberate pace of the pursuit.

But Gracia's account shows a radically different picture. The AFP used force indiscriminately,

often subjecting both captors and captives to aerial bombardment, or directing artillery fire from several miles away.

The first gun battle—Gracia recalls a total of 17—erupted mere hours after the Dos Palmas hostages and their abductors landed on Basilan island, five days after the abduction. In the firefight, the military's take-no-prisoners pattern of engagement was set.

The second battle was the biggest of the entire ordeal: the June 1-2 siege of the Lamitan hospital. The fighting was intense, and the scene at the hospital was pure chaos. When the captors and their hostages exited the hospital, the firing started again. A grenade exploded, hitting Martin and Sobero and badly wounding hostages Buddy and Divine Recio, whom the Abu Sayyaf decided to abandon.

(This account contradicts some parts of the testimony of Lamitan parish priest Cirilo Nacorda about the aftermath of the siege.)

The engagements continued. "More battles, more running in the rain, more missed meals, more desperation," Gracia writes. Sometime in October, Gracia observed a dramatic increase in AFP firepower: helicopter gunships and A-10 Warthog attack planes had joined the fray. The hostages feared even more for their lives,

but in the end, Gracia notes that only one bandit was injured and none was killed.

Tragically, the pattern held in the 17th encounter too. On June 7, 2002, just as the Burnhams lay down to take a nap, in the hinterlands of the Zamboanga peninsula, gunfire erupted, immediately hitting the bandits' last three hostages: Gracia, Martin and Ediborah.

Only Gracia survived. While waiting for the helicopter to take her away from the clearing, she was approached by the lieutenant in charge of the rescue operation. Please don't be mad at us, the officer said. We were only doing our duty.

About Gloria

The official government policy in the hostage crisis was strictly no-ransom. In practice, the book reveals, this meant the not-so-long arm of the law had a mailed fist at the end of it. To the terror of the hostages, however, the mailed fist kept coming down on both captor and captive.

In a letter to her sister Mary read aloud over Radyo Agong, a Radio Mindanao Network station, Gracia wrote: "To be honest, we do not want to be rescued, as they come in shooting at us."

This may explain in large part Gracia's ambivalent feelings toward the President, which find occasional expression in the

book.

When the President was about to pay her a visit at the US Embassy, days after she was evacuated from the mountains of Zamboanga, Gracia realized she needed to pray to prepare for the visit.

When Ms Macapagal finally arrived, Gracia recalls, she felt honored by the presence of the President, who had obviously just had a "long, hard day."

But the conversation was awkward at first, and not helped by Gracia's blurring out something she had learned: That the Abu Sayyaf were upset "a woman was running the country."

But before long, Gracia recalls, the two were talking like old friends.

She had feared she would "chew out" the President. She recalled that, sometimes, late at night in the jungle, she used to "think of all the unkind things" she would direct at the President, "about how her military was on the take, and how they were too proud" to ask the Americans to lead the rescue. "It wasn't nice. My natural self wanted to blame someone."

But at the meeting, she writes, "none of my venom came even close to the surface."

She told the President what she would find herself repeating again and again: The hostages never forgot who the bad guys were.

Hostages get glimpses of normality, comic relief, Beatles songs

From page A1

Road." Then Gracia writes: "Even the Abu Sayyaf sang a little, though such music was technically forbidden by their faith."

Another day, while still on the cramped fishing boat, a female hostage approached Gracia; she had just started her monthly period, and without sanitary napkins she didn't know what to do. Eventually the

group of women started softening pieces of cardboard. "Pretty soon a little knot of girls began to laugh uproariously at something," Gracia writes. Taking refuge in the normal, they had started dreaming up marketing and advertising ideas for the unique feminine hygiene product they were making with their hands.

Even the Abu Sayyaf bandits could not resist the pull of normality. In the middle of the siege of the Lamitan hos-

pital, with government soldiers and the bandits engaged in a fierce firefight, with part of the hospital in flames and hostages cowering in a hallway, a muscular bandit known as Bro came running down the hall. He had just fought the fire and was rejoining the gun battle. "As he tiptoed between people's legs and bodies, he kept saying, 'Excuse me ... excuse me ... excuse me.'"

It was, Gracia writes, "so typical of Filipino courtesy."

That never happened! says Palace

From page A1

to call him during the Dos Palmas hostage crisis when he was still Ms Macapagal's spokesperson.

"He was trying to call me but I refused to talk to him because our policy then was all negotiations would have to be done by our negotiator William Castillo," Tiglao said.

Tiglao said Sabaya was obviously acting, pretending to talk with the President to mislead the hostages being held by his group.

"This proves that Sabaya is a good propagandist," Tiglao said. "He was a good psywar (psychological warfare) operator and Gracia had fallen for that."

Tiglao said Burnham was "obviously led to believe that Sabaya had the President on the phone when this was not true."

"We sympathize with Mrs. Burnham as she had been subjected to tremendous pressure," Tiglao said.

When sought for comment, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye refused to answer the question.

Bunye repeatedly cited as reference the transcript of Burnham's interview with Fox News Channel, where she admitted that her allegations of the military's collusion with the Abu Sayyaf were all based on what she was

told by her former captors. (Story on Page A1.)

"The 'she heard' is what appears in the book," Bunye said. "(This was) something the Fox interviewer wanted her to confirm and she said 'I prefaced everything in the book that this is something I was told.'"

"This seems to put some doubt about the kind of testimony she's making. The question now is whether this is a direct eyewitness account or something that was just told to her," Bunye added.

Asked for a categorical comment on whether the President talked with Sabaya, Bunye repeated Ms Macapagal's order for the justice and foreign affairs departments to investigate Burnham's claims.

"The President precisely ordered an investigation in order to get to the bottom of this," Bunye said.

Bunye said that if the Fox News Channel transcript were to be relied on to test the credibility of Burnham's allegations, Bunye said: "She did not hear the conversation, that's the impression we got."

But Bunye admitted that he hadn't read the book and was not aware if Malacañang had a copy.

"Definitely that would be interesting reading," he said. "I would like to read that myself."



HOMEWARD bound, Gracia is wheeled at the Naia to catch her flight to the States on June 10, 2002.

ROGER MARGALLO

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Runaway elephant brings chaos, cheers

From page A1

and fell to the pavement at Kamuning Road corner Tomas Morato Avenue.

One of the handlers said the elephant "crossed over a fence and just ran away during practice"—an "unusual" occurrence, he said, "because Dumbo is obedient."

Enrique Gonzales, public information officer of the Araneta Center, said Dumbo was with his new mahout, or trainer, in the show compound. The elephant's regular trainer had called in sick, a staff member said.

Gonzales said the intense summer heat and the unfamiliarity with the Thai trainer might have agitated the 21-year-old elephant, who accidentally stepped on the trainer as he began his walkabout.

The trainer was injured on the shin, and was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Dumbo performs with the other elephants from Thailand in "Elephant World," which is being staged in a specially built area near the Araneta Coliseum.

The shows, which began in September 2002 and are to last until September 2004, are staged depending on the number of people who buy tickets.

Oscar Lei, director of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), told the INQUIRER by phone that authorities should thoroughly investigate the incident.

"They must have been lax in security," he said. "This incident is very dangerous to the public. Who knows, somebody could have gotten killed."

The PAWS strongly advocates against the use of wild animals for circus or show acts.

'Serious' snarls

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said the elephant had caused "serious" traffic snarls for dozens of kilometers.

"We have to find out what happened here to make sure it doesn't happen again," he said.

Traffic enforcers were deployed at the intersection of Kamuning and Tomas Morato to manage the vehicle flow that considerably slowed because of Dumbo's walkabout.

At one point Kamuning was closed to traffic.

The flow of vehicles along the stretch of Edsa near Kamuning also slowed down, although not enough to affect the other stretches of the major highway, said the MMDA's Vergel de Dios.

He said the traffic along Edsa slowed further when Dumbo crossed it to get to Kamuning.

Motorists along Edsa who were heading to Kamuning yesterday afternoon were directed to Timog Avenue or Aurora Boulevard.

Police cordoned off the area but bystanders, among them children, tried to get near Dumbo. "It's our first time to see a live elephant," they said.

Hundreds of residents, many of them children, cheered the impromptu show.

"We don't have money to watch the elephants, but now we can watch all we want. Thank you," said Lourdes Cruz.

Actor Mark Gil dropped by the area



MMDA personnel try to rein in Dumbo and hoist him with a crane.

JOAN BONDOC

and patted Dumbo's tusks and sides. He said he liked elephants.

But the handlers later told the actor to keep his distance so as not to further agitate the elephant.

According to the handlers, Dumbo stands at about eight or nine feet and is worth approximately \$1 million.

He consumes 100 kilos of bananas and 40 gallons of water daily.

In Dumbo's native Thailand, some 4,400 elephants are fighting for their survival. Almost 2,000 are domesticated.

These animals are smart and hard-working, and hold a revered place in Thai society because of their symbolic importance to monarchs, religion and the nation as a whole.

It is the mahouts who often bring domesticated elephants into cities to seek work.

In ancient times, elephants were an important means of transport and mounts during war. But over time, they lost their importance as a means of transport and as part of the war machine, and found a new occupation in the logging camps.

But that too was taken away when logging was made illegal. Reports from Anne Luisa E. Villarico, Leila B. Salaverria, PDI Research, INQUIRER wires

German firm clears Palace lawyer

By Carlito Pablo

FRANKFURT-based lawyers of Fraport AG yesterday cleared the influential Villaraza & Angangco Law Offices of allegations that the law firm had sought \$20 million from the German firm to fix problems related to the construction and operation of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

German lawyer Dietrich Stiller of the Clifford, Chance and Punder law firm indicated so in a May 8 letter sent to the Villaraza-Angangco Law Offices in Makati.

The letter was in turn attached by the local law firm's managing partner Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza in his own letter to a Philippine newspaper

demanding a public apology after it published stories about the alleged extortion attempt.

Villaraza's and Stiller's letters in turn were furnished to reporters covering Malacañang by presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, who acknowledged that the Villaraza-Angangco Law Offices has been the longtime "private counsels" of President Macapagal-Arroyo and her family.

The law firm was previously known as the Carpio, Villaraza and Cruz Law Offices before its partners were appointed to high government positions by the Macapagal administration. They are Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz. Another partner Simeon Marcelo was appointed Ombudsman.

Do not appeal, let's talk . . .

From page A1

copy of the Supreme Court decision only yesterday and would exhaust the entire 15-day period before filing a motion for reconsideration.

"We'll utilize every precious minute to show the Supreme Court that (it) had committed a grave mistake and at the same time educate the people on what really happened," he said.

He said the nullification of Piatco's contracts was "a sad day for private investors and public projects."

Veiled threat

Tolentino described as a "veiled threat" President Macapagal-Arroyo's invitation to sit down and discuss how the government would reimburse Piatco's investments.

"We're not just interested in just compensation," he said. "We want justice and justice can only be attained if the contract is respected by the present administration the same way it had been respected by the two previous administrations."

In a speech before the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, Ms Macapagal said the Piatco issue would undergo a "process ... that will satisfy all parties under the principles of justice and fair play."

"The process will be deliberate, systematic and transparent," she said.

Ms Macapagal said that "the people need not worry about hidden agendas or rush judgments."

The President earlier ordered Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong to go after public officials and private individuals involved in the Naia Terminal 3 project. The President's order came on the heels of Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban's suggestion that the government impose on Piatco and those who signed the illegal contracts "the stiffest sanctions permissible under the laws."

Despite the President's directive, the Department of Justice is not keen in probing the matter just yet. Datumanong did not order an investigation yesterday, but decided instead to refer the matter to the Office of the Ombudsman.

Datumanong did not see it fit to conduct a separate investigation, saying the President's

directive was for his office to refer "to the Ombudsman the Supreme Court decision" nullifying all five contracts awarded to Piatco.

The justice department was also asked to "request the Ombudsman for whatever appropriate action with respect to the participation of the government officials and employees in the annulled Piatco contracts."

"It's already done, I just signed the referral to the Ombudsman," Datumanong said.

He issued the pronouncement despite the fact that the justice department had been deputized by the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate cases involving past and present government officials.

Then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto deputized the Department of Justice in connection with the Piatco case because his office had authority to investigate only public officials and employees. The Ombudsman can deputize other government agencies subject to certain limitations.

Contempt

A former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission wants Piatco legal counsel Frank Chavez cited for contempt.

"Piatco and its lawyers should be cited for contempt of court three times over for embarrassing and degrading the Supreme Court," Perfecto Yasay said in a statement.

Yasay said his call was prompted by Chavez's remark that the Supreme Court decision amounted to "legalized highway robbery."

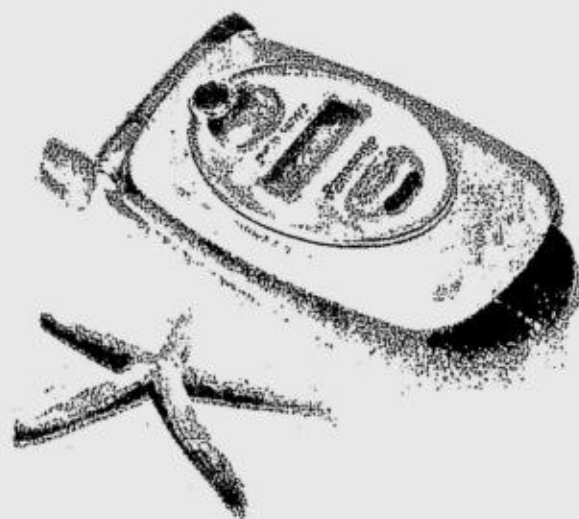
"After the Dec. 10 oral arguments, Chavez misled the public by misquoting the honorable court in claiming that Piatco had a procedural victory, when it had none," Yasay said.

Reacting to Yasay's statement, Chavez said: "He wants a fight? I will give him a fight he will never forget!"

Chavez said "I have every right to make public my assessment of any court decision affecting my client."

"I am challenging Yasay to file that contempt motion before the Supreme Court, given that he is neither a party to the Piatco case nor a lawyer for any of the parties to that case," he said in a statement.

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Malabon back on track as Vicencio takes helm

By Tina Santos

THE FIRST thing Amado Vicencio did when he got back as Malabon City mayor was to undo the changes made by Vice Mayor Mark Allan Jay Yambao.

Vicencio started with the reinstatement of Malabon police chief Supt. Pedro Ramos.

Supt. Benjamin Cabiltes, the officer Yambao named as city police chief, has been detailed to the Northern Police District Office (NPDO), according to Marcelino Franco Jr., NPDO director.

The offices that Yambao reportedly moved to other rooms, such as the sports department and the Public Order and Safety Office, have been switched back.

Even Yambao's plan of taking over the office of former city councilor Rogelio Yanga has been shelved.

Nearly two weeks after he had been ordered suspended allegedly for the anomalous purchase of land in Navotas, Vicencio has returned and vowed to finish all flagship projects of his administration.

"This is a victory not only for me, but for the people of Malabon," Vicencio said, stressing that he feels vindicated by the turn of events.

He reiterated his trust and confidence in the country's legal system and said that he is hopeful that the corruption case lodged with the Department of Interior and Local Government would be fairly handled.

Vicencio, who is now on his third and last term as the city mayor, also confirmed reports that he would field in his wife, Florinda Vicencio, as his successor in the 2004 mayoral elections.

The mayor, who was also suspended for another graft case last year, was quick to say that he does not bear grudge on those who filed the case against him which led to his second suspension.

"I do not feel bitter," Vicencio said in Filipino. "There will always be people opposing me. They can never be persuaded to subscribe to my beliefs."

On Wednesday, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo signed a memorandum order instructing the DILG to lift the preventive suspension order on Vicencio, based on a Court of Appeals order. The DILG then ordered Yambao to step down as acting city mayor and allow Vicencio to assume office.

Yambao had said that he welcomed the development.



IT IS business as usual for City Hall employees, now that Amado Vicencio is back to call the shots in Malabon.

JOAN BONDOL

Olivarez: I'll pay taxes when Alma becomes mayor

By Christian Esguerra

PABLO Olivarez, former mayor of Parañaque City, yesterday vowed to settle his realty tax obligations, supposedly worth P41 million, only with Mayor Joey Marquez's successor.

And he's confident that the successor would either be Alma Moreno, Marquez's estranged wife—or himself.

"If Alma wins, it would be much easier to negotiate with her," Olivarez told the INQUIRER. "It's hard to talk to Joey because all he thinks about is politics and how to destroy me."

But what if he wins? "In that case, I will ask the city treasurer to examine my property and determine my real tax obligation... Then I'll pay," said Olivarez who was city mayor from 1992 to 1995.

Olivarez prevented Marquez from auctioning off his assets last Wednesday by securing a temporary restraining

order from the Supreme Court a week earlier.

The assets include the Olivarez College, a general hospital, a cinema and a sports center.

Marquez said the arrears have been standing since 1992, and have shot up to at least P41 million.

"It's very clear that Olivarez has already been a tax evader, even when he was still mayor," Marquez said on Wednesday.

"Before thinking of ever running again, he should first set a good example to the people by paying his taxes."

Claiming political harassment, Olivarez accused Marquez of padding his tax obligation and denying him a legal 25-percent discount.

"So he's now an assessor," a sardonic Marquez shot back. "The maximum discount allowed by law is 16 percent, not 25 percent. He should read books first before blurring anything in public."

Rigorous workout proves too much for cop official

By TJ Burgonio

HE HAD dodged bullets and escaped death several times in the line of duty.

But Supt. Henry T. Gil of the Aviation Security Group did not survive a series of pull-ups, sit-ups, push-ups and a kilometer "jog walk" at the parade ground of the police headquarters in Camp Crame yesterday morning.

Gil, 50, collapsed after doing a round of physical fitness tests and died later because of cardiac arrest at the Philippine National Police General Hospital, police said.

Gil was waiting for health personnel to compute his score when he collapsed at 7:15 a.m. yesterday, said an official who did not want to be named.

Medical personnel hastily carried him to an

ambulance and rushed him to the hospital the official added.

Gil supposedly had a history of hypertension, but he was given a clean bill of health and cleared to undergo the tests, said the official.

The tests are given to a certain age group of policemen every six months as part of the physical fitness program of the national police.

The crime laboratory has started conducting a complete autopsy of Gil's body to establish the exact cause of his death, according to PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

He said the Health Service unit will conduct an investigation to determine if procedures in the fitness tests were followed.

'Angels' airs on cable channel

CAN THE blind see in their dreams? Can blind parents take care of their children?

"Angels," the first full-length digital film from a major studio, Star Cinema, is based on the true-to-life story of a blind couple in search of a normal family. The film, which is told from the point-of-view of a 10-year-old boy,

will air this evening at 6:30 p.m., and on May 21, 9:30 a.m. on cable TV, Cinema 1, Channel 22. "Angels," graded and mastered on grain 4 features Gina Alajar, Nonie Buencamino and Angelo Caangay.

It is directed by Ellen Ongkeko Marfil and written by Ricky Lee.

METROBRIEFS

Clan killing in Tondo

FOR ABANDONING his wife, Alex S. Apable, 25, was shot and stabbed to death by his in-laws in Tondo, Manila on Wednesday. A knife was still stuck in the back of Apable, a resident of Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila, when police found him, said Detective Alfredo Salazar. Police said the suspects, identified only as Tito Pandong, Ninong Bagat, Tito Noon, Tito In-ton, and Tito Buboy, got furious when they heard that Apable abandoned his wife several weeks ago. The woman happened to be a relative of the suspects. On Wednesday night, they chanced upon Apable in Purok 2 and killed him. Salazar said that investigators are now coordinating with the victim's relatives to track down the killers.

Philip Tubeza, Lourdes Valerie Handumon

Jailhouse rumble

A MEMBER of the Philippine Coast Guard, his brother and two of their friends were mauled inside a detention cell of the Central Police District in Quezon City after they challenged other inmates to a fistfight. SPO4 Melanio Valeroso said Coast Guard man John Ohano, his brother Willy, and their friends Rodolfo Precia and Artemio Adena were arrested after their neighbor, Myra Obal, accused them of throwing rocks at her house. When they were hauled to jail, the four suspects, who were said to be drunk, vented their ire on the other inmates and provoked a fight. Bruised and cut, the four men would also be charged with grave threats and direct assault for throwing rocks at Obal's house.



Anne Luisa Villarico

High school burglars

TWO HIGH school students, one of whom is reported to be the nephew of a former manager of boxing champion Manny Pacquiao, had been arrested for allegedly breaking into the house of a Department of Health doctor in Malabon City and stealing at least P1 million in cash and valuables, police reported yesterday. The suspects, both aged 16 and residents of Malabon, used a boltcutter to enter the house of Dr. Fernando Rovillos, 39, at around 2 p.m. on Tuesday. The victim and his family was reported to be in Boracay. Rovillos' maid went to the police to report the robbery which led to the arrest of the suspects on Wednesday.

Tina Santos

Cop accused of rape

GREGORIO Galeng, formerly of the Bicutan police force, has been accused of molesting and raping a four-year-old girl in Quezon City on Tuesday night. Police said Galeng, 67, of Project 6, was caught in the act of raping the girl inside a jeepney parked in front of the Quezon City General Hospital on Seminary Road, Barangay Bahay Toro at 7 p.m. According to the victim's six-year-old sister, the suspect said he would treat the girls to some candy if they would let him have sex with her. Galeng sensed something was wrong and quickly told her mother about the incident. The police promptly arrested Galeng.

Anne Luisa Villarico

Suspect in slaying of QC lawman reported missing

By Agnes Donato

THE LONE surviving suspect in the Congressional Avenue shooting, which led to the death of a rookie policeman and five other suspects, has gone missing.

Glicerio Pitulan, 25, reportedly managed to get out of the East Avenue Medical Center without his police watchers knowing it. He was being treated in the hospital for the gunshot wound he had sustained in the April 20 shootout.

A police source, who has requested anonymity, said that Pitulan managed to escape when his watcher, a member of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit, allegedly failed to come on time for his duty.

At least four members of the CPD-CIU Gen-

eral Assignment, which was tasked to guard Pitulan, are now being investigated for Pitulan's disappearance, the source said.

He however refused to name the four lawmen.

Pitulan was the only suspect arrested and charged with the killing of PO1 Aldy Monteroso and wounding of PO2 Benito De Vera in a shootout on April 20 at Congressional Avenue in Quezon City.

He is facing charges of direct assault with murder, direct assault with frustrated murder and direct assault with attempted murder.

Five of his cohorts, Eufemio Pitulan, Serbs Pitulan, Edward Pitulan, Felomino Pitulan and Augusto Torres—were killed in the exchange.

They were all suspected of involvement in the illegal gun trade.

Samurai wielder charged for Makati slay

SUSPECTED drug pusher Leozar del Cruz, 22, has been charged for the murder of Vincent Pimentel, son of Makati Councilor Astolfo.

Dela Cruz, 22, a resident of Signal Village Taguig, had been out of prison for only a wee when he slashed the throat of Pimentel, 38, with a samurai on April 30 in Barangay Riza police said.

PO2 Ricardo Tan said Dela Cruz had been detained at the Makati jail on drug charges.

The suspect is still at large.

Witnesses told police that Dela Cruz was in a foul mood when Pimentel arrived and paid Dela Cruz the P50 he owed him.

Dela Cruz killed Pimentel with a samurai which the suspect later threw in a canal. *Leil Salaverria, Jamie Alarcon*

Manila councilor submits to probe

MANILA Councilor Isko Moreno yesterday said he is willing to be investigated by his colleagues on his culpability in the death of a barangay chair who died after reportedly having a shouting match with him last weekend.

The actor-turned-politician, Francisco Dumagoso in real life, said he is "saddened by malicious efforts" to portray him as guilty of, and directly responsible for, the death of Barangay 54 chair Eugenio Maningas.

The first district alderman claimed a female councilor is even spearheading moves to smear his name and ruin his reputation by blaming him for the chair's death.

Moreno is facing a probe by the City Council's blue ribbon committee.

But some councilors said that Moreno was not arguing with Maningas when the latter had a heart attack.

Jerome Aning



MMDA-LINIS GANDA PARTNERSHIP

The Metro Manila Development Authority, through its general manager, Robert Nacianceno, met recently with members of the Metro Manila Federation of Environment Cooperatives to reduce garbage in the metropolis by buying recyclable waste materials on a house-to-house basis. Leonarda Camacho, Metro Manila Linis-Ganda executive vice-president, poses with members of the federation.

Maganto vows to get Camacho 'dead or alive'

By Christian V. Esguerra

DEAD or alive, suspect Santiago "Sonny" Camacho will be in the hands of police within a week.

This is what Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto promised the parents of Baron Cervantes, who was killed on Dec. 30, 2001 in Las Piñas.

Camacho allegedly set up the murder of Cervantes.

In a meeting with Cervantes' parents early this week, Maganto vowed to arrest Camacho "dead or alive" should he fail to surrender by next week.

Maganto and his team of policemen



CAMACHO

failed to arrest Camacho during a raid of the fugitive's safe house in Antipolo last April 30.

"I'm giving him a week to surrender," Maganto told Cervantes' parents. "Even if he doesn't surrender, I'd still get him, dead or alive."

Camacho's escape came several weeks after Maganto's team hunted down the suspect in Mindanao. The

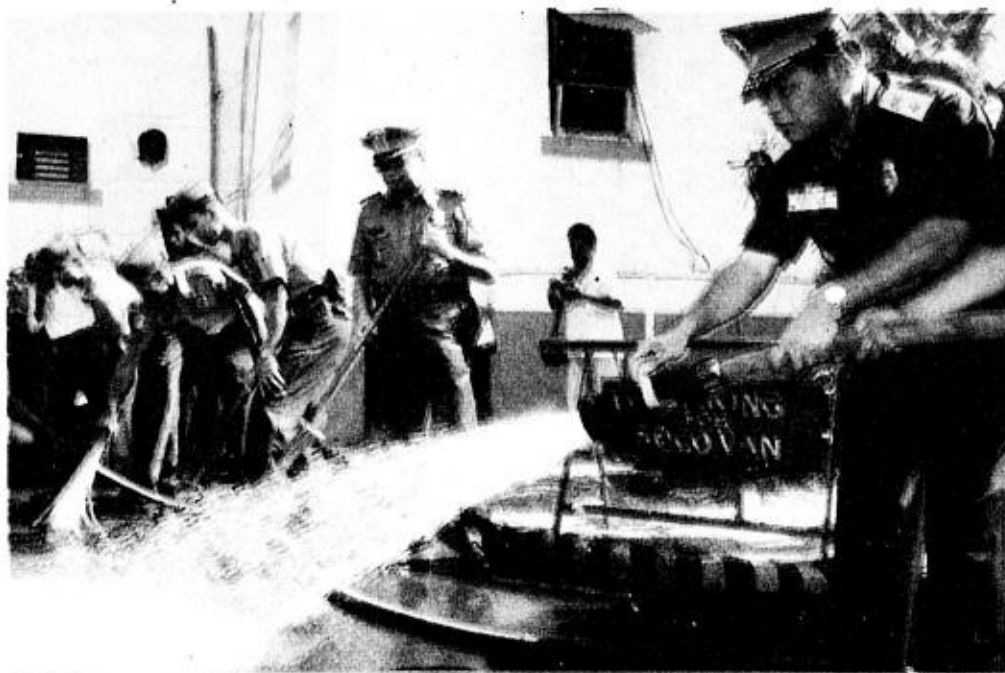
team arrested two men who turned out to be namesakes of Camacho.

Maganto said Camacho had gotten a new look. He had shaved his mustache and had shed some pounds.

He said he would seek the approval of National Security Adviser Rollo Golez in his hard-line decision to produce Camacho, dead or alive, within a week.

"I'm just here to do my job, and that is to get Camacho," said Maganto, who is known among crime suspects as "Dirty Harry."

He said that he is not bothered by that perception.



STAYING CLEAN

Members of the Western Police District led by WPD chief Gen. Pedro Bulaong (right) hose and sweep premises of the police headquarters along UN Avenue in Ermita as part of a clean-up drive against the deadly SARS virus.

ERIK ARAZAS

Fear can help prevent SARS, says UP medic

By Agnes Donato

FEAR is spreading faster than Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in the country, which could be helpful in preventing the spread of the disease, according to a doctor from the UP Philippine General Hospital.

"Some degree of paranoia is helpful," said Dr. Jaime Montoya, quoting a World Health Organization official, as he stressed the importance of public vigilance against SARS.

"Always assume that the person sitting next to you might have SARS," Montoya said half in jest during a forum on SARS at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City.

Montoya, a professor and infectious disease consultant at the UP-PGH, also asked Filipinos to arm themselves with knowledge to fight the spread of the disease, which has killed two people in the country and has infected at least eight others.

SARS is communicated through a mutated form of coronavirus that causes the common cold.

But Dr. Troy Gepte of the Department of Health National Epistemology Center said during the same forum that the public should not be unduly alarmed by the disease.

Gepte chided Filipinos for being "unique" among the 30 SARS-infected countries because they had panicked even before the virus arrived here.

The symposium also featured two other speakers, Dr. Eva Cutionco of the National Institute of Health at UP Manila, and Dr. Elmer Soriano of the Institute of Public Health Management.

Cutionco talked about how human genetic material interacts with the SARS virus, while Soriano called on the public to take individual responsibility for the containment of SARS.

In Mandaluyong City, 41,000 high school and elementary students will undergo medical screening during the enrollment period to ensure that city schools are free from SARS.

Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. ordered city health officials to coordinate with the Department of Education in implementing measures that would ensure the safety of students and their environment. *With Nelson Forte Flores*

30 new bridges to span Metro

By Leila Salaverria and Maria Khristina Villanueva

THE HOPE of motorists never suffering through traffic jams again partly lie in 30 new bridges that would be built all over Metro Manila.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday that the 30 bridges, now on the planning board, would interconnect the metropolis' secondary roadways.

They would also provide additional and alternative routes for drivers, who congest main thoroughfares.

Six to seven of the 30 bridges being planned would be built over the Pasig river, connecting Makati and Mandaluyong, he said.

The bridges would be built by the Public Works and Highways department, but Fernando is involved in this project because of the functional supervision he has over major projects concerning the National Capital Region.

The MMDA is also concerned with the project because it would affect the traffic situation in the metropolis.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said that another area in dire need of these traffic-easing bridges is Binondo in Manila and the Quezon City area.

He said Fernando had already ordered teams to scour the area and look for ideal locations where the bridges would be put up.

Vergel de Dios said the bridges would be built over esteros, canals or small creeks that lie between two roads.

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Amateur golf champ probed on dad's slay

By Christian Esguerra

PHILIPPINE amateur golf champion Artemio Murakami, 19, will be questioned by police in connection with the killing of his father Hiro-masa in Parañaque City last Wednesday.

Police yesterday said that the younger Murakami will be summoned to explain why he had left open four doors in their house on Levitown Avenue in Better Living when he went out jogging on the day his father was killed, said city police chief Ronald Estilles.

The older Murakami, 58, was shot to death while he was sleeping inside his bedroom. His wife Carmelita was sleeping beside him.

The younger Murakami is the youngest Philippine amateur golf champion and a member of the CAP Southwoods golf stable.

"Why did he have to leave all the



MURAKAMI

bedroom were all left open when the younger Murakami went jogging at about 4 a.m.

At least two gunmen had entered the house through these doors and shot the older Murakami at least six times, initial investigation showed.

"(The son) said he was somehow careless about the locks whenever he

doors open?" Estilles asked during a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

He said that the main gate, a second gate leading to the main entrance of the house, and the door to the victim's

went outside to jog early in the morning," Estilles said.

"But why was the door of his father's bedroom open? I suppose he didn't have to go there before jogging."

Police said that the younger Murakami's mother Carmelita and their domestic helpers would be questioned and given paraffin tests.

Carmelita had told police that she did not see her husband's killers even if she was sleeping beside him when he was shot to death, police said.

Investigators had ruled out robbery as a motive in the killing.

Estilles said that investigators are now looking into the victim's Kansai Food Inc., a grocery and restaurant supply business in Marikina, which is supposedly managed by Carmelita's son in a previous marriage.

The older Murakami also had a pebble export business, police said.

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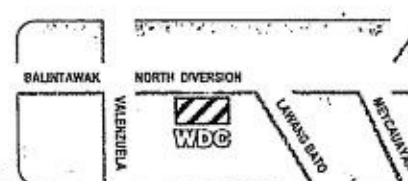


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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

DOTC: COLORUM BUSES OUT OF EDSA

Going... going... going... gone

By Abigail L. Ho

WITHIN an eight-month intensive drive to rid Metro Manila streets of colorum buses, the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) has already apprehended a total of 3,888 public utility buses operating without valid franchises.

Transportation Undersecretary Arturo Valdez said in an interview yesterday that the DOTC would now be training its eyes on routes outside Edsa as he said Edsa was now "colorum-free."

The DOTC's drive against colorum and out-of-line buses was initially focused on Edsa as most public utility buses ply that route.

"There will be no let-up in this campaign. Operations of the DOTC Action Center's field enforcers now include major radial thoroughfares," Transportation spokesperson Thompson Lantion said.

Valdez related that just yesterday morning at Plaza Lawton in Manila, he and the DOTC Action Center personnel were able to apprehend around 20 colorum buses in only one hour.

Next target

He said his next target was the heavily congested Taft Avenue in Manila.

"Taft Avenue has always been heavily congested but we can do something about this by removing all the colorum buses plying that route," he said.

Lantion said the impounding area at the intersection of Edsa and Quezon Avenue in Quezon City was already so full of apprehended buses.

Some of the the apprehended units already occupied some space outside the impounding area, he said.

Most of the apprehended buses are parked at the Edsa-Quezon Avenue impounding compound, while some are taken to other impounding areas, including one in Muntinlupa, Lantion added.

Aside from a crackdown on colorum buses, the DOTC is also intensifying its campaign against smoke-belching vehicles that ply Metro Manila streets.

From January to April, the DOTC Action Center team had already apprehended 1,622 vehicles.

The DOTC and the Land Transportation Office would continue to work together to rid Manila streets of colorum and out-of-line buses, as well as smoke-belching vehicles, Lantion vowed.

MMDA appeal: Go easy on jeepney drivers

By Leila B. Salaverria

DON'T be too hard on the jeepney driver.

This is Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando's appeal to motorists who tend to notice nothing but the faults of the drivers of these public utility vehicles.

According to him, jeepneys have as much right on the road as private cars have and should therefore not be considered "secondary" vehicles.

Fernando said that concern about the jeepneys is the reason why road engineers, and not traffic enforcers, are his answer to complaints about illegally parked jeepneys that occupy the areas under flyovers, empty lots or sidewalks and roadways, which block the traffic flow.

He said the engineers, who form the terminals and stands team of the MMDA, meet with and observe the practices of the jeepney drivers so that they would be able to assess the jeepney drivers' need for a terminal of their own.

When the MMDA team sees an ideal location for a terminal, they build one there so that the drivers won't have to play a cat-and-mouse game with law enforcers.

The MMDA would also shoulder the cost of building the terminal and provide proper facilities for the drivers.

Earlier, MMDA officials appealed to public utility drivers who park in illegal terminals to coordinate with the MMDA so that their parking area will be legitimized.

Just got back from the States from an awesome tour with Regine. Wow, what a talent! Got 2 more this May 9th & 10th at the Araneta with her. Vikes! Come watch me sweat!

monday

Watched my eldest son sing & play in a church convention the other day and all I can say is, "watch out John Mayer!" Stage father ba?

wednesday

Martin...from morning 'til late at night

I'm now on my way to a major step in my career. I'll be at the Golden Nugget Hotel in Las Vegas on May 15th until June 8th! I have a billboard on the strip & everything!

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SPORTS

Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva



It's no go for Lanao Palaro

IT's no go for this year's Palarong Pambansa in Tubod, Lanao del Norte after all.

Philippine Sports Commission chairman Eric Buhain announced yesterday the indefinite postponement of the Palaro despite assurances of the safety of participants by the military and the police.

"I respect the declaration of the AFP and PNP about the peace and order in and around Tubod, but

after consulting with top sports personalities, we deemed it prudent not to hold the Palaro at this time when there are conflicts in other areas," said Buhain.

Buhain said the PSC is grateful for President Arroyo's concern and support for the Palaro "but we also took into consideration the sentiments of the parents, the athletes and other stakeholders before we decided on the postponement."

Despite assurances from the

AFP and the PNP, the Palaro has already been hit by withdrawals of delegations from the National Capital Region (NCR), Central Luzon, Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Southern Tagalog, Ilocos and Cordillera Administrative Region.

The NCR, which announced its non-participation even before the Palaro was rescheduled, is the perennial overall champion of the sportsfest.

Buhain said he remained confi-

dent that the annual gathering of the country's future sporting heroes will be held at a new date.

"It is our job to ensure the Palarong Pambansa's success and we will work for it as soon as we set a new date for the Games," said Buhain.

Originally set to start May 4-11, the annual sportsfest expected to draw some 5,000 student athletes was reset to May 18-25.

Buhain said President Arroyo and the military leaders accepted

his stand on the postponement and gave him blessing to do what is best for the athletes.

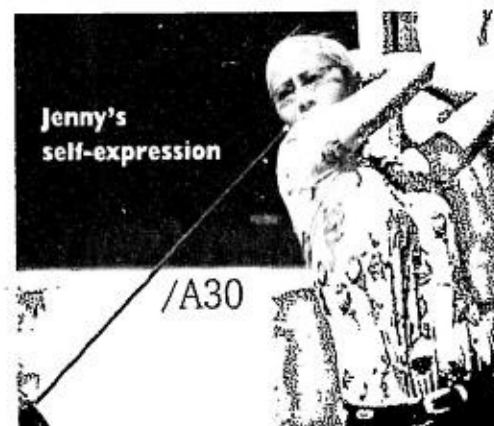
"While sports is apolitical, we also feel for the innocent victims of this conflict in Mindanao. Sports leaders, athletes and journalists are praying for peace. We cannot play while deep in our hearts there are other Filipinos, especially children, who are victims of this conflict," said Buhain in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER.

Buhain said that AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya had given the thumbs-up sign for the holding of the Palaro during the Legislative and Executive Development Administrative Council meeting presided by President Arroyo last Wednesday at Malacañang.

"I met with officials of the Department of Education, parents and also consulted with the Dimaporos before making this

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WHAT'S INSIDE




Scientific Hoops Orientation Training Sessions

Open to boys and girls 7 to 12 years old
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Venues: Caruncho Gym (Pasig) and San Juan Gym



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Camp Director: Raymond Cells



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Camp Director: Arlene Rodriguez
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Quirimit back on top, vows to stay there

By June Navarro

BAGUIO CITY—Arnel Quirimit swept on top of the overall standings as promised even as Placido Valdez sustained a daring, solo breakaway yesterday to rule the punishing 12th lap of the Tour Pilipinas 2003 bikathon.

A day after losing the yellow jersey of leadership, Quirimit grabbed it back from Enrique Domingo by spearheading a four-man second pack that followed Valdez home.

Valdez, who finished 69th in the 11th lap won by Domingo Wednesday, rode with vengeance and conquered the difficult 160.6-km lap that took the riders through all three roads going to Baguio in five hours, one minute and 52 seconds.

Although he took a spill on the last curve near the famous Lion's head marker, Valdez was hardly challenged by the second group composed of Danny Ganigan, Lloyd Reynante, Ronald Gorrantes and Quirimit, who went on to post a lead of one minute and 42 seconds over Rhyann Tanguilig.

Ganigan sped away from the second pack while negotiating the 45-degree climb towards the Baguio General Hospital and finished second, four minutes and 41 seconds behind Valdez.

Reynante crossed the finish line third, nipping Gorrantes and Quirimit, who later vowed to keep the yellow jersey for good.

"I will not allow anybody to take this (lead) again from me. This is the most difficult lap and I showed I deserve to be here," said the 27-year-old Quirimit in Tagalog.

The 36-km individual time trial from Rosario to Baguio via Kennon today will be the final test of Quirimit's worth as potential champion.

"I can take care of the yellow jersey up to the last lap provided that I don't suffer mechanical problems along the way," said Quirimit.

Tanguilig came in sixth in the lap and advanced to second from fourth. Mercurio Ramos remained third overall after checking in ninth for the day, 3:11 behind Quirimit.

Warren Davadilla, champion when the Tour was last held in 1998, moved up to fourth while Domingo, known mainly for his sprinting prowess, dropped to fifth overall.

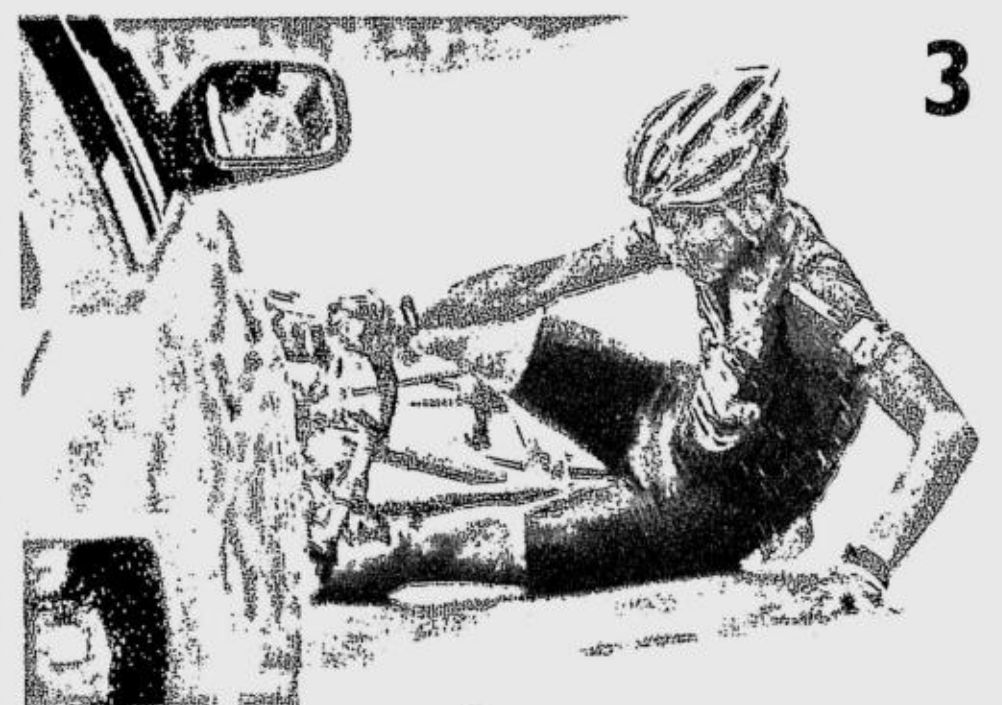
Rounding out the top 10 were Reynante (sixth), Bernard Luzon (seventh), Gorrantes (eighth), Felix Celeste (ninth) and Renato Dolosa (10th).

"I'm more comfortable riding alone because I can dictate my own pace. I got unlucky the other day and I made up for it," said Valdez, who dropped to 20th overall Wednesday, 40 minutes off the lead, as he wrestled with a broken handle bar.

Knowing Valdez won't be a factor in the overall picture, the favorites allowed him to grab the day's spotlight and the P10,000 prize for the win that could only boost him to 17th place.



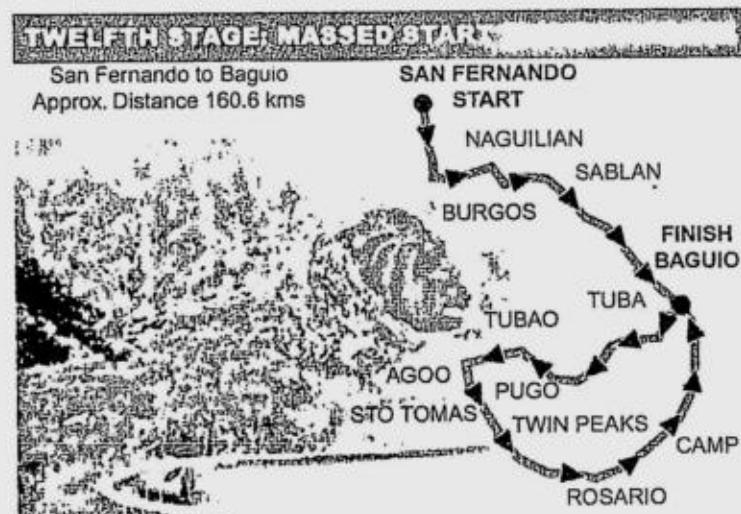
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MAN OF THE DAY.

Placido Valdez (1) pedals to victory in Baguio City, but not before some scary moments on the treacherous Kennon Road. When overzealous spectators (2) douse him with water, Valdez takes a spill (3) and almost gets run over by an escort vehicle. He manages to get up unscathed but for some scratches, to win the killer stage.



Overall Standings

RANK	RIDER	TEAM	TIME	RANK	RIDER	TEAM	TIME
1	ARNEL QUIRIMIT	TAN	45h52'15	44	ARNEL ESPINO	PAG	02h30'35.165
2	RHYAN TANGUILIG	PAG	00h01'42.702	45	ROLANDO PAGANAWON	BOW	02h31'37.876
3	MERCULIO RAMOS	SAM	00h03'11.061	46	RAZON GALDONES	INT	02h34'04.971
4	WARREN DAVADILLA	INT	00h04'04.231	47	RODELIO VALDEZ	SAM	02h46'03.954
5	ENRIQUE DOMINGO	POS	00h08'18.413	48	MICHAEL GONOWON	BOW	02h56'07.682
6	LLOYD REYNANTE	PAG	00h10'43.401	49	NOLI DEL ROSARIO	PLD	02h56'20.715
7	BERNARD LUZON	PAT	00h12'46.270	50	RYAN MENDOZA	PAT	02h56'41.521
8	RONALD GORRANTES	ECO	00h16'05.761				
9	FELIX CELESTE	VAT	00h20'35.985				
10	RENATO DOLOSA	GIL	00h21'47.202				
11	SANTI BARNACHEA	BOW	00h24'46.202				
12	ALBERT PRIMERO	PLD	00h25'12.673				
13	ALFIE CATALAN	BOW	00h25'45.221				
14	FREDERICK FELICIANO	DRU	00h27'09.402				
15	JOSEPH MILLANES	TAN	00h29'29.302				
16	DANNY GANIGAN	SAM	00h30'34.026				
17	PLACIDO VALDEZ	DRU	00h33'36.131				
18	ARNOLD MARCELO	POS	00h36'58.815				
19	CARLO JAZUL	ECO	00h44'29.683				
20	FERNANDO ALAGANO	INT	00h48'48.191				
21	LITO ATILANO	GIL	00h52'00.840				
22	SHERWIN DIAMSA	VAT	00h54'58.583				
23	JOEL CALDERON	VAT	01h01'30.074				
24	PATERNO CURTAN	ECO	01h03'52.202				
25	ERICSON OBOSA	TAN	01h09'29.671				
26	REYNALDO NAVARRO	POS	01h10'47.012				
27	PAULO MANAPOL	INT	01h23'51.151				
28	CARLO GUIES	ECO	01h23'58.694				
29	MANUEL MENDOZA	SAM	01h24'33.398				
30	REINHARD GORRANTES	PAT	01h30'45.114				
31	NILO ESTAYO	INT	01h40'56.050				
32	ARTHURS BUCAY	INT	01h40'30.483				
33	ERIC TOLENTINO	TAN	01h48'05.621				
34	WILFREDO CALOSA	POS	01h50'44.083				
35	GERRY AMAR	PAT	01h51'57.278				
36	EUSEBIO QUINONES	VAT	01h52'39.472				
37	AVELINO BAYUGA	VAT	02h10'16.762				
38	MICHAEL REYES	INT	02h16'51.882				
39	DIONISIO POSILERO	PAT	02h17'28.974				
40	JOEL GUILLER	PAG	02h16'01.091				
41	JAY TOLENTINO	PAG	02h21'31.132				
42	VIRGILIO MUENA	PLD	02h27'48.470				
43	OSCAR FRONDA	PLD	02h29'10.972				

12TH LAP STANDINGS

1	PLACIDO VALDEZ	DRU	05h01'52.160
2	DANNY GANIGAN	SAM	00h04'41.82
3	LLOYD REYNANTE	PAG	00h05'08.07
4	RONALD GORRANTES	ECO	same
5	ARNEL QUIRIMIT	TAN	same
6	RHYAN TANGUILIG	PAG	00h05'37.44
7	WARREN DAVADILLA	INT	00h07'11.42
8	ALBERT PRIMERO	PLD	00h07'35.99
9	MERCULIO RAMOS	SAM	same
10	BERNARD LUZON	PAT	00h08'54.16
11	FELIX CELESTE	VAT	00h08'59.63
12	SHERWIN DIAMSA	VAT	00h10'08.72
13	JOEL CALDERON	VAT	same
14	RENATO DOLOSA	GIL	00h12'48.38
15	PAULO MANAPOL	INT	same
16	FREDERICK FELICIANO	DRU	00h13'46.72

TEAM STANDINGS

PL	TEAM	TIMED	DEFICIT
1	INTEL	185h23'37.0	
2	TANDUAY	186h06'53.8	00h43'16.80
3	RHUM RIDERS	186h10'17.4	00h46'40.44
4	POSTMEN	186h12'31.8	00h48'54.79
5	SAMSUNG	186h26'05.8	01h02'28.81
6	ECO SAVERS	186h53'39.7	01h30'02.71
7	VAT RIDERS	187h21'33.4	01h57'56.42
8	PATROL 117	187h22'12.7	01h58'35.71
9	PAGCORSPORTS	187h58'33.8	02h34'56.86
10	BOWLING GOLD	188h39'37.5	03h16'00.51
11	GILBEYS	188h46'09.4	03h22'32.43
12	ISLAND PUNCH	190h21'43.2	04h58'06.24
13	DRUG BUSTERS		
14	PLDT-NOD		

'It was the lap I wanted most'

BAGUIO CITY—The tough race conditions left him with only one good leg.

But that did not stop Placido Valdez from ruling the most demanding lap of the Tour Pilipinas bikathon yesterday.

His left leg still swollen after taking a spill in Sunday's seventh lap from Marikina to Olongapo, Valdez ignored the pain and focused on conquering the stage that he wanted to win most since joining the Tour in 1989.

"Of all the laps in the Tour, the Baguio City stage is the lap that I wanted most," said the 33-year-old

Valdez in Tagalog.

Valdez has his reasons for wanting to claim victory on a course that took the riders to Baguio via Naguilian and then Kennon in between driving down through Marcos highway.

The route reminded Valdez of his breakdown during the 1994 Tour when the Cabanatuan City native gave up while going up through Kennon.

A runaway winner of the Eagle of the Mountain title in his rookie year, Valdez obviously learned a lesson or two from that depressing experience.

"Dream fulfilled. I'll cherish this victory long after this Tour," said

Valdez, a member of the national team in the mountain bike category.

Cycling has also been kind to Valdez, who now owns two houses, one in Cabanatuan City and another in Manila, not to mention a two-hectare rice field in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Valdez finished second in 1994 and 1995 and was third in 1992, 1993 and 1997.

Meanwhile, the top five finishers of yesterday's lap and the top 10 riders in the overall individual race had their urine samples tested to make sure the riders are drug-free.

June Navarro

It's no ...

From page A25

decision. The Dimaporos respected the PSC's position, saying they would really want to show the best face of Mindanao.

Gov. Imelda Dimaporo and her husband Cong. Bobby Dimaporo had long wanted to host the Paloro, but gave way to Bacolod and Naga City in Camarines Sur due to the shaky peace and order situation in Mindanao.

Until fighting broke out in two towns in Lanao del Norte some two weeks ago, everybody was looking forward to this year's Paloro in Tubod where the host province had built a P500 million sports complex inside the Mindanao Civic Center.

Alonso's no fluke

BARCELONA, Spain—When Fernando Alonso gained the pole position and took third in the Malaysian Grand Prix, it was considered a fluke.

The 21-year-old Alonso has shown that it wasn't, and he must now be regarded as a rival to five-time champion Michael Schumacher.

"In 2003, I want to score points. In 2004, I want to do so continuously. In 2005, I want to be on the podium and in 2006 I want to be champion," he said earlier this season.

He is well on his way. Alonso is one of two drivers to score points in the first five races of the season. The other is Ralf Schumacher, Michael's brother. Now Alonso hopes to become the first Spanish driver to win a race.

Alonso and Michael Schumacher have had good competition so far. Both drivers skidded out of the Brazilian GP last month. But Alonso crashed late in the race and finished third, although he was headed to a hospital at the time after being shaken up in the wreck.

Last week, he challenged Michael Schumacher at the Spanish Grand Prix, and finished second behind the German ace.

Alonso downplays his chances for a win soon.

"Everybody says that now is time for a victory, but to be honest, the results I am getting are far from normal. It is not logical for us to be that high," Alonso said.

AP

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AIR 21
R. Dolosa 21:47.202 F. Celeste 20:35.985

R. Gorrantes 16:05.761 B. Luzon 12:46.270

L. Reynante 10:43.401 E. Domingo 8:18.413

W. Davadilla 4:04.231 M. Ramos 3:11.061

R. Tanguilig 1:42.702 behind A. Quirimit 45h52'15

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Belle Cup golfest lures 125 teams

SOME 125 teams fight for top honors in the Belle Cup golf championships starting today at the Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands. The two-day event is a combination of three tournaments—the Highlands Cup, the Midlands Cup and Belle Cup, which is the culmination of the first two events. Invited were Presidential Adviser Eduardo Ermita, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and PSC commissioner Ambrosio de Luna. At stake are the team championships in the Highlands, Midlands and Belle Cups,

plus the overall individual championships, Groups I, II, III and ladies division titles. Also up for grabs are two Northwest Airlines world business class tickets to any US destination with the first to be given to the first player to make a hole-in-one on any par-3 hole at the Highlands or Midlands and the second to be raffled off among Belle Cup participants during the awards rites. Over P300,000 worth of merchandise will also be raffled off with Wilson Sports putting up another P200,000 worth of Wilson items.

Greenhills 5-mile classic June 8

OVER 1000 entries are expected when the fourth Annual Greenhills 5-Mile Classic fires off from the Greenhills Shopping Center Complex on June 8. Organized by the Greenhills Running Club under the stewardship of Dr. Remigio Jarin, the event is sponsored by Zest-O and supported by Procter and Gamble Phil. and the Ortigas Company. The race will start

and finish at the Greenhills Shopping Center and will use Ortigas Ave. as the race route. Registration starts on May 15 at the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. at 51 Annapolis St. in Greenhills, San Juan. Registration fee is P100. Supporting the project are the cities of San Juan and Mandaluyong, the Philippine National Red Cross and the Philippine National Police.

Bergavera advances in junior tennis

CADIZ—Bacolod's Gerard Bergavera posted easy wins over Jan-Jan Javier, 6-0, 6-1, and Rommel Mendez, 6-1, 6-0, respectively, to advance in separate divisions in the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop at the Cadiz Tennis Club. Bergavera clinched a quarterfinal slot in the boys' 14-under bracket with Prenan Alesin, a 6-3, 6-2 victor past Angelo Gustilo; Marvin Umaday over Jovary Maravalles 6-3, 6-3; AR Famini past

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COASTAL LAS PINAS 801.7644	COASTAL MR. ROXY CRO MAGNON NO ENTRANCE FEE
MABINI 525.1474	HEADWORKZ PHYRGIANZEST NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE 521.8143	MUSIC CIRCUIT SAINTS NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES 936.9757	J. BROTHERS STREETLIFE NO ENTRANCE FEE
BIAN 049751.7268	POWER ON PERFECT STRANGERS NO ENTRANCE FEE
Partyplace SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	M PEOPLE
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER 890.4735	TIA MARIA'S CITY BORN FIRST SIGHT NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS 522.0429	VERSE 2 3RD DEGREE NO ENTRANCE FEE
TOMAS MORATO 371.1473	RHYTHM ACE MAJOR 7 NO ENTRANCE FEE

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The perfume for your car.

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Pamper your baby on wheels
with the only car freshener
with real perfume.



Aqua Vanilla Bouquet Anti-Tobacco Pacific Air

High Flying Updates

BEAR BRAND Kitefest

BAGUIO'S FINEST

ELEMENTARY DIVISION: FLAT KITE CATEGORY 1 st Prize Josey Costales 2 nd Prize Christopher Pilonos 3 rd Prize Mark Daanaa	Bilibi Tuleng Rainbow Kite For World Baguio Yellow
HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION: FLAT KITE CATEGORY 1 st Prize Mark Joseph 2 nd Prize Louie Santos 3 rd Prize Darlek Caccam	No To War Peace My Sunday Car In Baguio Napapanaweng Mga
COLLEGE DIVISION: GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY 1 st Prize Edgar Cano 2 nd Prize Eric Basil 3 rd Prize Ryan Bumanlag	Geo - Ethnic Owl Fish Not War Neon Fin Tlapla
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SARANGGOLA NI BEAR BRAND High School College	Bear Brand Kite Spider Man For World
SARANGGOLA NG BARANGAY Victoria Village	Mama Bear
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FAMILY SPOTTING Carbonilla Family Balancio Family	Pilonos Family Magaling Family
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SPORTSWATCH

Belle Cup golfest lures 125 teams

SOME 125 teams fight for top honors in the Belle Cup golf championships starting today at the Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands. The two-day event is a combination of three tournaments—the Highlands Cup, the Midlands Cup and Belle Cup, which is the culmination of the first two events. Invited were Presidential Adviser Eduardo Ermita, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhan and PSC commissioner Ambrosio de Luna. At stake are the team championships in the Highlands, Midlands and Belle Cups,

plus the overall individual championships, Groups I, II, III and ladies division titles. Also up for grabs are two Northwest Airlines world business class tickets to any US destination with the first to be given to the first player to make a hole-in-one on any par-3 hole at the Highlands or Midlands and the second to be raffled off among Belle Cup participants during the awards rites. Over P300,000 worth of merchandise will also be raffled off with Wilson Sports putting up another P200,000 worth of Wilson items.

Greenhills 5-mile classic June 8

OVER 1000 entries are expected when the fourth Annual Greenhills 5-Mile Classic fires off from the Greenhills Shopping Center Complex on June 8. Organized by the Greenhills Running Club under the stewardship of Dr. Remigio Jarin, the event is sponsored by Zest-O and supported by Procter and Gamble Phil. and the Ortigas Company. The race will start

and finish at the Greenhills Shopping Center and will use Ortigas Ave. as the race route. Registration starts on May 15 at the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. at 51 Annapolis St. in Greenhills, San Juan. Registration fee is P100. Supporting the project are the cities of San Juan and Mandaluyong, the Philippine National Red Cross and the Philippine National Police.

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COASTAL 2nd

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HEADWORKZ PHYRIGIAN/ZEST
MUSIC CIRCUIT SAINTS
J. BROTHERS STREETLIFE
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TIA MARIA'S
CITY BORN FIRST SIGHT
VERSE 2 3RD DEGREE
RHYTHM ACE MAJOR 7

High Flying Updates

BEAR BRAND Kitefest

BAGUIO'S FINEST

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2nd Prize Christopher Pilonos
3rd Prize Mark Daana

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2nd Prize Franklin Ruiz
3rd Prize Francis Mallari

SUPER KITE AWARD
Eugene Mallari

SARANGGOLA NI BEAR BRAND
High School Nenilo Gallardo Jr.
College Delfin Pelones 3rd

SARANGGOLA NG BARANGAY
Victoria Village

THEME KITE
Isagani Cajulao

FAMILY SPOTTING
Carbonilla Family
Balencio Family

FAVORITE OF THE CROWD
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ADULTS DIVISION: FIGURE KITE CATEGORY
BARANGAY DIVISION: GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY

Billit Tuleng
Rainbow Kite For World
Baguio Yellow

No To War Peace
My Sunday Car In Baguio
Napapanawong Mga

Geo - Ethnic Owl
Fish Not War
Neon Fin Tilapia

Anaconda Of Baguio City
Shadow Tailed
Alagang Usa Ng Baguio

Geo - Baguio View
Benquet Fire Bird
Evolber

Baguio Mountain Lion
Green Wolf Dragon
Candy Beauty Stallion

Zimba The Real Lion King

Bear Brand Kite
Spider Man For World

Mama Bear

Geo - Baguio View

Pilonos Family
Magalong Family

Hubert Villanueva
Alvin Cajulao
Ricard Nabrila
Anna Javier
Juanito Sampang
Eduds Hoyas
City Camp Proper

Kuwago
Ibon Sa Kalawakan
Snow Flakes
Village Butterfly
Relaso
Sinungay Kite
City Camp Proper Kite

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With Julia in Baguio

Our 1st Anniversary

Julia's first car wash....

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with the only car freshener
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AT A GLANCE

NBA
PLAYOFFS
2003

SECOND ROUND

Eastern Conference

(1) Detroit vs. (4) Philadelphia

Pistons 1 Sixers 0

Game 1: Detroit 98, Philadelphia 87
Game 2 at Detroit (May 9, 7 a.m.)
Game 3 at Philadelphia (May 11, 7 a.m.)
Game 4 at Philadelphia (May 12, 8 a.m.)
*Game 5 at Detroit (May 15, TBD)
*Game 6 at Philadelphia (May 17, TBD)
*Game 7 at Detroit (May 19, TBD)

(2) New Jersey vs (6) Boston

Nets 2, Celtics 0

Game 1: New Jersey 97, Boston 93
Game 2: New Jersey 104, Boston 95
Game 3 at Boston (May 10, 8 a.m.)
Game 4 at Boston (May 13, 8 a.m.)
*Game 5 at New Jersey (May 15, TBD)
*Game 6 at Boston (May 17, TBD)
*Game 7 at New Jersey (May 19, TBD)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

(1) San Antonio vs (5) LA Lakers

Spurs 2, Lakers 0

Game 1: San Antonio 87, Lakers 82
Game 2: San Antonio 114, Lakers 95
Game 3 at Los Angeles (May 10, 10:30 am)
Game 4 at Los Angeles (May 12, 3:30 am)
*Game 5 at San Antonio (May 14, TBD)
*Game 6 at Los Angeles (May 16, TBD)
*Game 7 at San Antonio (May 18, TBD)

(2) Sacramento vs (3) Dallas

Kings 1, Mavs 0

Game 1: Sacramento 124, Dallas 113
Game 2 at Dallas (May 9, 9:30 am)
Game 3 at Sacramento (May 10, 9:30 am)
Game 4 at Sacramento (May 12, 10:30 am)
*Game 5 at Dallas (May 14, TBD)
*Game 6 at Sacramento (May 16, TBD)
*Game 7 at Dallas (May 18, TBD)

* If necessary
TBD (To Be Determined)

Spurs, Nets up, 2-0

Lakers get 'royal kick in the butt' from Bowen

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Bruce Bowen drilled a team playoff-record seven 3-pointers and scored a career-high 27 points as San Antonio routed the Los Angeles Lakers 114-95 Wednesday in the second round of the National Basketball Association playoffs.

The victory gave the Spurs a two games to none lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference semifinals, while in the East, New Jersey took a 2-0 lead over Boston with a 104-95 win.

The Spurs made a major statement in game two, never trailing and leading the three-time defending champions by as many as 33. Bowen had a lot to do with it.

Defensive specialist

A defensive specialist, Bowen's primary responsibility in this series is to guard Kobe Bryant, who is one of the NBA's top offensive players. He also is expected to hit an occasional shot.

He did much more, however. Taking advantage of good looks at the basket, Bowen went 10-of-12 from the field and made 7-of-8 3-pointers. He sank five 3-pointers in the first half, helping the Spurs open a 60-43 lead.

San Antonio extended the advantage to 94-67 after three quarters, rendering the final 12 minutes meaningless.

Bowen was averaging just 5.6 points in his first seven playoff games. His previous postseason high was 13 points in last season's

conference semifinals against the Lakers.

Rookie Manu Ginobili, a key factor in Game One for San Antonio, had another big game. The Argentina native had 10 points in the first quarter and finished with 17 on 5-of-7 shooting.

Offensive firepower

With the unexpected offensive firepower from Bowen and Ginobili, NBA Most Valuable Player Tim Duncan did not have to do much. Duncan netted 13 points to go with 12 rebounds and seven assists and sat out the entire fourth quarter.

"That was a royal kicking of our butt in this game," said Lakers coach Phil Jackson. "We couldn't find a way to slow them down."

Things were so bad after three quarters for the Lakers that Bryant and superstar center Shaquille O'Neal watched the final 12 minutes from the bench. Both scored 27 points.

"They cut us up tonight," Bryant said. "They got a lot of fast break points, that's something we have to limit. Collectively, they seemed like they were more aggressive to shoot the ball." The Spurs, seeking revenge after being eliminated by the Lakers in the playoffs each of the previous two seasons, look to keep the momentum going when the series shifts to Los Angeles on Friday.

"We're just down two games," O'Neal said. "We haven't played well. Hopefully we can win two games at home and get back on

track."

New Jersey had the makings of a blowout before Boston sliced a 16-point deficit to two, then Jason Kidd and Richard Jefferson returned to help the Nets hold on.

Kidd collected 23 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists and Jefferson scored 25 points as the Nets survived a lengthy scoring drought for the second straight game.

"I think we are happy where we are," Nets coach Byron Scott said. "I feel real good. We are playing pretty well, but we haven't done anything special. We took care of our home court, and that's all we've done so far." Kidd capped the third quarter with a layup to give New Jersey its largest lead at 82-66, but he and Jefferson started the final period on the bench.

The Celtics, who rallied from a 21-point deficit to defeat the Nets in Game Three of last year's conference finals, opened the fourth quarter with 14 straight points.

Career triple double

Paul Pierce—who posted his first career playoff triple double—scored six during the spurt, bringing Boston within 82-80 on a pair of free throws with 7:48 left.

Jefferson, who returned with 8:24 to go, answered with a pair of free throws at 7:33 mark for New Jersey's first points of the period.

"When myself and Kidd were out of the game, Boston started to get a little more comfortable," said Jefferson. AFP

Wizards dump Michael Jordan

WASHINGTON—Michael Jordan isn't welcome back with the Washington Wizards, who abruptly dumped him Wednesday because he failed to turn them around in his 3 1/2 seasons on and off the court.

Team owner Abe Pollin made the decision after meeting with Jordan, who was the Wizards' president before coming out of retirement to play for them the past two years.

Disappointed with the team's poor record and embarrassed by infighting on and off the court, owner Abe Pollin told Jordan about his decision in a 30-minute meeting at the team's arena.

After it was over, Jordan left in a convertible, with the top down.

He was the Wizards' president before coming out of retirement to play for them the past two years. He retired for good last month and expected to return to the team's front office.

"This was definitely my desire and intention," Jordan said in a statement. "However, today, without any prior discussion with me, ownership informed me that it had unilaterally decided to change our mutual long-term understanding."

"I am shocked by this decision, and by the callous refusal to offer me any justification for it."

Now he's expected to explore options with other teams, with the new expansion franchise in Charlotte one of the leading alternatives.

Robert Johnson, new owner of the Charlotte NBA franchise, said Wednesday that Jordan can have "any role he wants to play." He and Jordan have already had discussions, a person with knowledge of the talks told The Associated Press on Sunday on condition of anonymity.

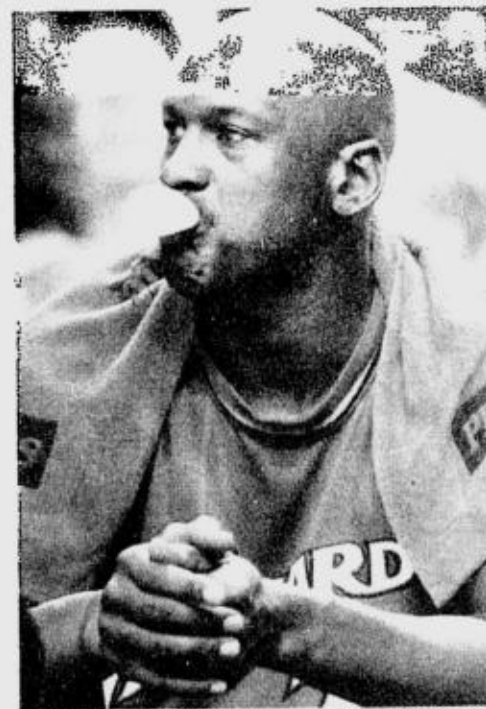
A Wizards source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The AP that Pollin's decision was based on three factors: player dissension, a franchise faltering after the years of Jordan in charge, and deteriorating relationships throughout the organization.

The source said no decision has been made about the front-office people Jordan hired, or whether Jordan's hand-picked coach, Doug Collins, will remain for the final two years of his contract.

"While the roster of talent he has assembled here in Washington may not have succeeded to his and my expectations, I do believe Michael's desire to win and be successful is unquestioned," Pollin said in a statement.

Pollin's statement also implied that his decision was made with minority partner Ted Leonsis, saying that: "In the end, Ted and I felt that this franchise should move in a different direction."

However, another team source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Leonsis was not aware of Pollin's decision until the meeting. ADVT.



MICHAEL JORDAN: Never before cut by any team

Leonsis and Jordan, who dined together Tuesday night, arrived expecting to discuss Jordan's rejoining the team, the source said. Instead, Pollin opened with a statement saying Jordan would not be welcome back and that it was not open for discussion.

During the meeting, Pollin offered Jordan a \$10 million severance payment, according to the source, but Jordan turned it down.

Leonsis had no comment.

Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA titles in the 1990s but never came close to duplicating that success in Washington. In essence, he transformed the Wizards from a largely ignored mess into a very public one.

The Wizards haven't won a playoff game since 1988, and the franchise's only NBA championship came in 1978 as the Bullets.

Jordan put the franchise back on the map when he was hired in January 2000, but his record was just 110-179 as the top decision-maker, a role he kept even after returning as a player.

Unaccustomed to failure, Jordan hasn't been discarded by a basketball team since he was cut from the varsity as a sophomore in high school.

The last few months have been particularly embarrassing for Pollin, an old-school owner who has shown little tolerance for in-house turmoil.

Jordan and his teammates sniped at each other as the Wizards finished a disappointing 37-45 for the second consecutive year and missed the playoffs again. AP

AMAZING KITES

By Gabriel Gerardo Noble Cortez
Grade VI - 12 years old
South Merville School
Valedictorian

It is vacation time! All of us kids are just excited because there is so much time for fun and play! To all the kids and teenagers out there, what are you doing this summer? I would like to think that some will go to the beach with the family, others will get into sports - basketball, bowling, swimming and others will visit relatives, go out-of-town, etc., etc., etc. Well, for me, I will do something different - simple but I think very interesting. Make a guess, what else but KITES!

My first time to see so many kites was when I was 5 years old. I jumped up and down wanting to reach all the kites I saw in the sky. It was Mommy who had brought me to Rizal Park (which she calls Luneta), where a big, big kite contest was held, the BEARS IN FLIGHT!

Mommy had her way of having us do and go to activities which she is very much into, and one of which is KITES! Because Mommy had to work and supervise the kite contest, she bought me a kite from a man at the site selling kites. Wow! There were just so many kites flying and all the kites were very colorful, very big, of different sizes and shapes! I saw a house, a boat, a lechon, different flowers, a jeepney, a dragon; all flying at the same time! How those kite flyers did it just made me question if I can do it myself.

While my kite was a black bat, very simple and not colorful at all, I was just too eager to try to fly it myself. Mommy was very good at kite-flying. She had shared stories with me and my brothers about her experience at making and flying kites. She even told us that during her time she was the only girl flying a kite. She was always excited to share with us her childhood experience that she with so many boys joined kite dogfights. She always said, "She was one of the boys." Mommy helped melaunch



my kite and gave me very detailed instructions. "Hold the string firmly while I hold your kite and release more string when you're sure that your kite has flown.

Do not run, just stay where you are and your kite will fly! And I was so happy, it looked like a real bat up in the air under my control. I just went on and on flying my kite. It was so much fun! Now, I like to share my experience with everyone and how made my first kite. I got a wooden stick and shaped it in a X, tied it with rubber and string in the middle, and pasted it in a Manila paper with different colors with the help of my brothers - Kuya Miguel, Kuya Paolo, and Kuya Carlo. I had asked them to bring me to Rizal Park because there was no place in the area where we can stay to fly a kite; so off we went to Rizal Park.

My brothers and I are flying one kite - MY KITE! I was just so happy and my brothers enjoyed, too! If I had fun, I'm sure all of you kids out there will enjoy and be excited flying a kite.

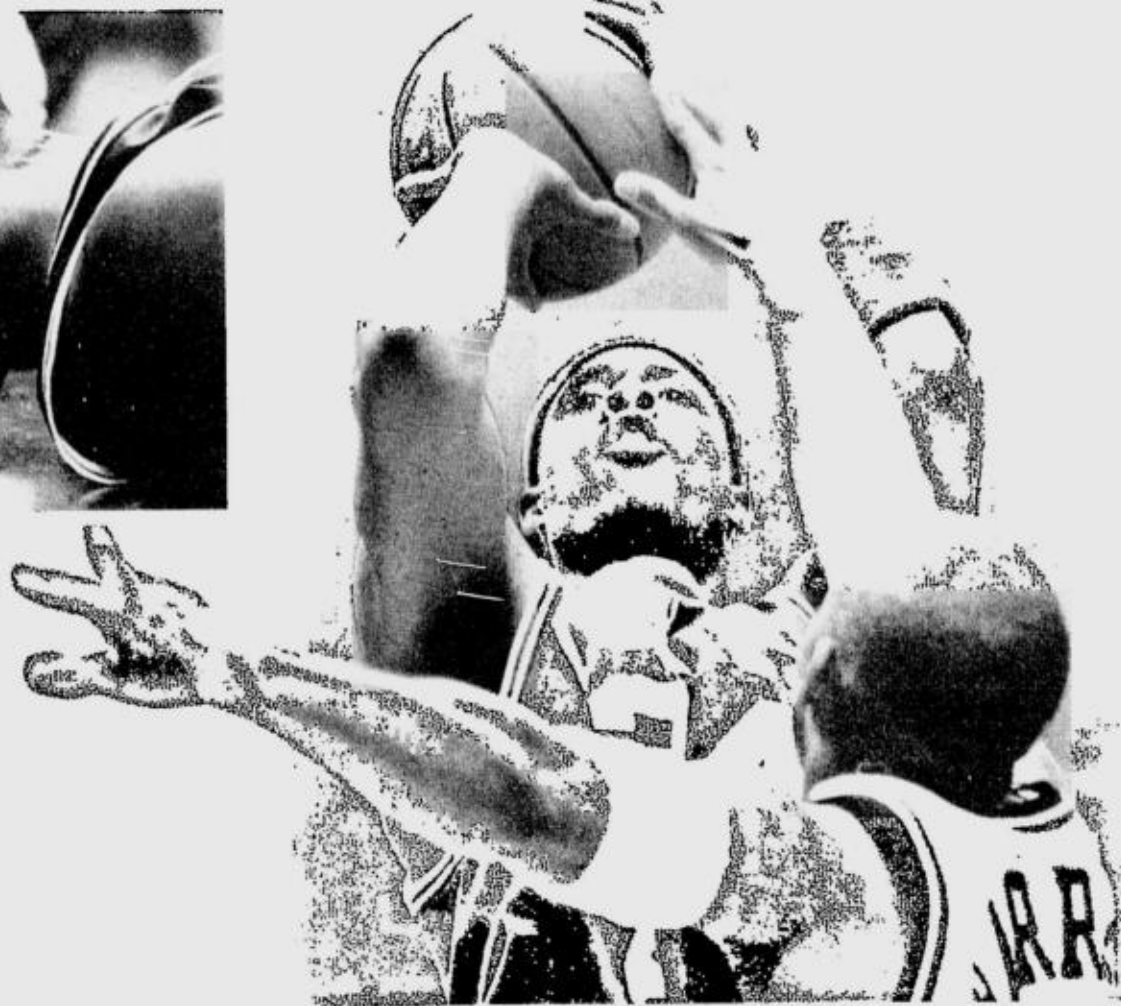
Come one, come all! There is a bog kite event at Rizal Park on May 11, 2003, that's Sunday and whole day affair for free, the BEAR BRAND KITEFEST 2003, Manila Edition!

Year after year, Mommy tells us to go to the biggest kite contest at Rizal Park. This year, I will be there again to enjoy the beautiful and artistic kites. Why don't you go and see for yourself what I'm talking about. Join me, and let's all go fly a kite!



CELTIC AGONY: Boston forward Paul Pierce grimaces after hurting his ankle near the end of fourth quarter in Game 2 against the New Jersey Nets. Pierce continued to play until the end of the game, but his heroics (right) went for naught when they lost to the Nets, 104-95.

REUTERS



Yao, Stoudemire head all-rookie team

NEW YORK—No. 1 overall draft choice Yao Ming and rookie of the year Amare Stoudemire were unanimous choices for the NBA All-Rookie team announced Wednesday.

Houston center Yao and Phoenix forward Stoudemire, who entered the league straight from high school, both received the maximum 56 points in balloting by the league's head coaches.

Miami's Caron Butler (55 points), Orlando's Drew Gooden (45) and Denver's Brazilian forward Nene Hilario (40) also made the team.

Argentinian guard Emanuel Ginobili and

Croatian guard Gordon Giricek were picked for the All-Rookie second team.

Yao led rookies in blocks (1.79), was second in rebounding (8.2) and tied Stoudemire in scoring average.

Stoudemire led NBA rookies in rebounding (8.8) and tied for second in scoring (13.5) and blocked shots (1.06). He helped the Suns make the playoffs, where they were eliminated in the first round by top-seeded San Antonio.

The All-Rookie second team: San Antonio's Ginobili, Orlando's Giricek, Cleveland's Carlos Boozer, Chicago's Jay Williams and Boston's J.R. Bremer.

AP



YAO MING: Unanimous choice

Foot surgery for Rick Fox

SAN ANTONIO—Los Angeles Lakers forward Rick Fox, who'll miss the remainder of the playoffs, will have surgery on his left foot Monday in New York.

Fox injured his foot in Game 4 of the Lakers' first-round playoff series against Minnesota on April 27. He also has a torn tendon.

Fox will undergo a realignment of bone in his heel area and have the tendon repaired, team spokesman John Black said Wednesday.

He is expected to stay overnight in the hospital, then spend three or four days at his New York home before returning to Los Angeles to rehabilitate.

Fox expects to be sidelined at least six-to-nine months.



RICK FOX: Torn tendon

The Lakers played Game 2 of their second-round series Wednesday night at San Antonio.

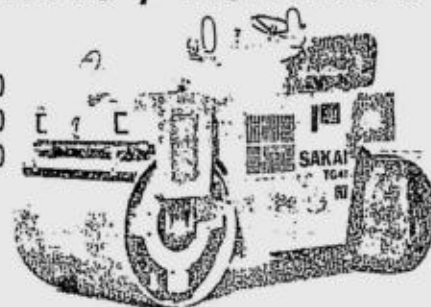
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SPORTS NOBLE

By Bong Barrameda

NBA playoffs

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1. True / False: The Boston Celtics are the winningest post-season team in NBA history with 16 league championships.

2. Who was named MVP of the 2002 NBA Finals:

- ☐ Shaquille O'Neal
☐ Kobe Bryant?

3. Which coach is the registered trademark owner of 'threepeat,' which means anyone who uses the term commercially must pay him royalties?

- ☐ Pat Riley
☐ Phil Jackson
☐ Red Auerbach

4. He has played the most playoff games (177 prior to the current playoff wars) without winning an NBA title. Who owns this all-time record of futility?

- ☐ Patrick Ewing
☐ Charles Barkley
☐ John Stockton

5. In 1986 Michael Jordan scorched Larry Bird and the Celtics with the highest scoring output in any NBA playoff game. How many points did His Airness log?

- ☐ 61
☐ 63
☐ 65
☐ 67

6. Which team became the first NBA league champion after beating the Chicago Stags, 4-1, in the Finals in 1947?

- ☐ Rochester Royals
☐ Fort Wayne Pistons
☐ Philadelphia Warriors
☐ Syracuse Nationals

7. Which one-time PBA import owns the NBA single-game playoff record of a perfect 12-of-12 field goals while playing for the Kansas City-Omaha Kings against the Chicago Bulls on April 13, 1975?

ANSWERS/ A31

NBA labor talks adjourn

NEW YORK—Preliminary collective bargaining talks between NBA owners and players have ended for now, with the sides anticipating another meeting later this month, a union spokesman said.

Players and owners met for about three hours Wednesday at a New York hotel. They met for a similar amount of time Tuesday.

"We anticipate reconvening again by the end of the month," union spokesman Dan Wasserman said.

The current six-year collective bargaining agreement expires at the conclusion of the 2003-04 season, although the owners have an option to extend it through 2004-05. That option must be exercised by Dec. 15.

AP

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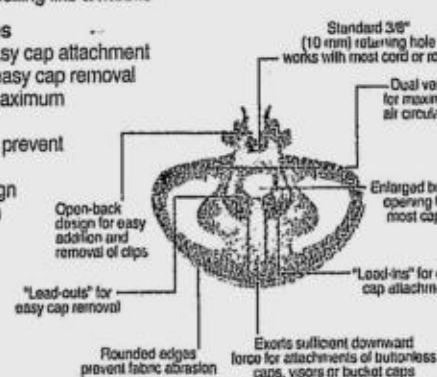
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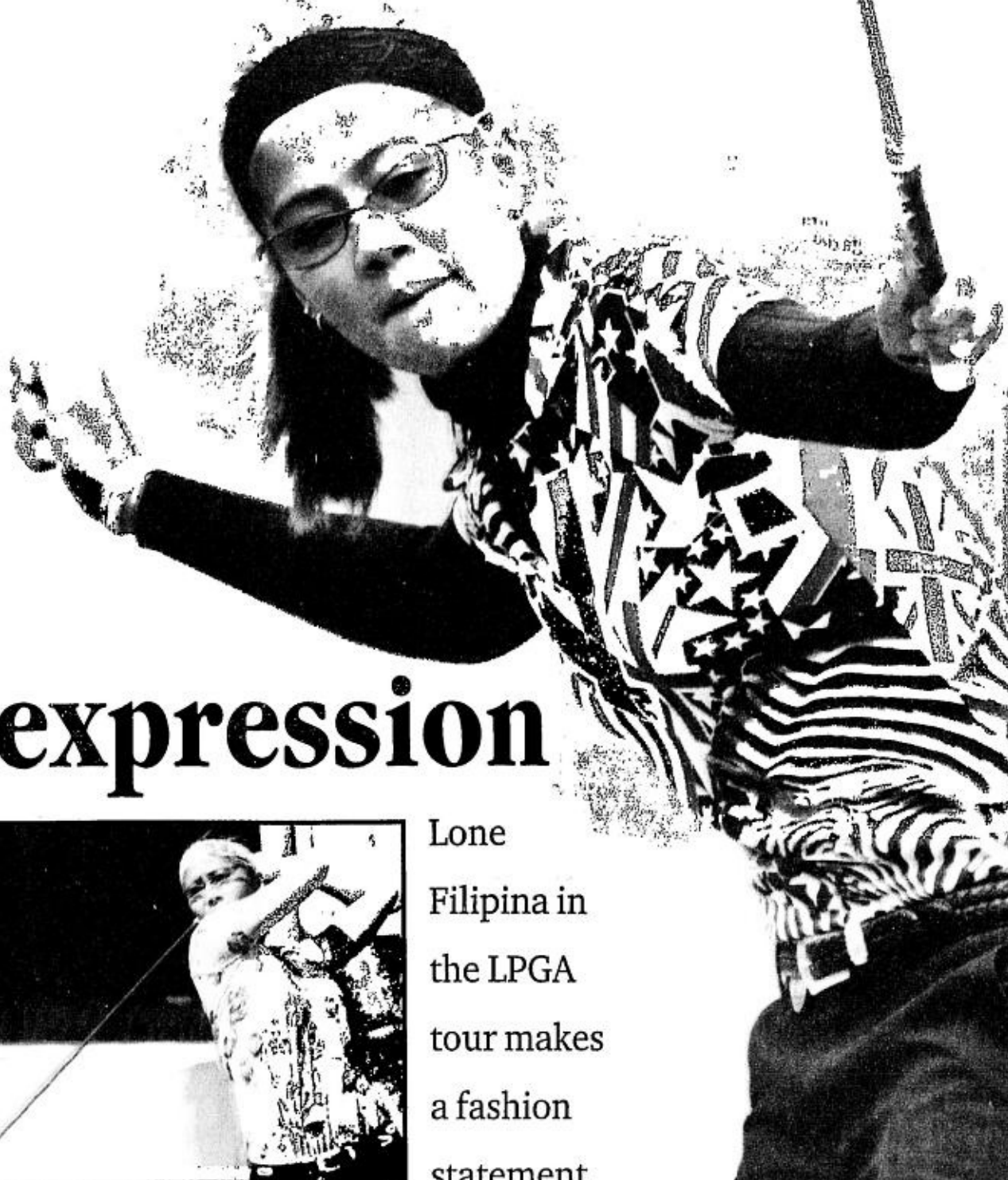
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JENNIFER Rosales may still be winless, but she's the hands-down leader in the LPGA Tour in the fashion department with her funky outfits, highlighted by her matching bandana-and-shirt winners from, of all places, Divisoria.



Jenny's self-expression

By Jong Arcano

THE LPGA career of Jenny Rosales is blooming and people need not look at the money list or the statistics to know why.

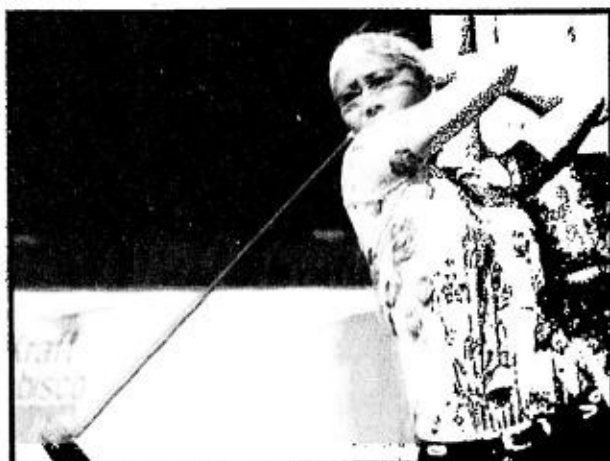
Her fashion says it all.

Though still searching for her first victory since she joined the LPGA in the United States four years ago, Jenny's playing outfit—shirts with flashy, colorful designs and the matching bandanas—has made her a constant winner as a certified crowd darling.

Those closely following her fashion sense may be surprised to know that her shirts and bandanas are made in the Philippines. Not in the big factories of such golf apparel giants as Nike, Tommy Hilfiger, Izod or Mizuno.

Jenny's apparel is being sewn for her by close friend Lora Roberto whose family owns a garments firm, Paulyn's Group Inc. in Alabang. Jenny picks out the fabrics from suppliers in Divisoria and gets the help of Roberto, who is herself a low-handicapper, in designing the assortment of sleeveless, collar-less or buttoned shirts.

It's what Rosales calls the "Jenny" funky style, far different from the "boring" outfits of caps and shirts being worn by most of the stars of the LPGA. Jenny dictates on her



footwear provider, Footjoy, particular designs and colors of her shoes, where she requires buckles instead of the usual laces.

While there is a lot of money in the endorsements from labels sewn on caps and shirts, Jenny's sponsors may have to settle for anything other than her printed shirts and bandanas for the meantime. The logo of Oakley as well as that of financial backers Pagcor and Dr. Jack Arroyo's American Eye Center are soon to be embroidered in her bag.

Rosales, who is playing in this week's Asahi

Ryokuken event in South Carolina after posting her best finish this season of seventh place in last week's Michelob Open in Virginia, is using the Oakley eyewear but efforts by the giant firm to let her wear their shoes and apparel have so far gone in vain.

"She's doing it her way and it's paying off since her fashion is creating a lot of stir," said Rosales' swing coach Bong Lopez. "LPGA players often ask about her unique clothing and Jenny proudly tells them that they're made in the Philippines."

Lone
Filipina in
the LPGA
tour makes
a fashion
statement
with funky
outfits
from
Divisoria

Jenny just got a big space in the LPGA website in the Style Watch link. Titled Self Expression, the caption goes ... "Jenny Rosales certainly has her own personal style. And there's a good reason! She picks out the fabrics and then a friend makes all of her shirts and matching headbands. That's one way to know that you will always be coordinated."

Proper coordination is, of course, something Jenny is doing right nowadays. Fashion-wise and of course, swing-wise.



INSTANT CELEBRITY: Heads now turn for Masters champion Mike Weir during the pro-am of the Wachovia championship. AP

Life now different for Masters champ

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Heads turned when Mike Weir walked through a small crowd of players in the locker room and sat down for lunch after his pro-am round Wednesday at the Wachovia Championship.

Winning the Masters comes with instant celebrity, even among peers.

"There's a lot of appreciation from guys who have won a major and know what an accomplishment it is," Davis Love III said. "Guys that haven't won ... even more, because they want to win one. That's a big part of winning. Players are excited for you."

Life has changed for Weir.

A street will be named after him near his house in Draper, Utah. He dropped a ceremonial puck in Toronto and received

an autographed NBA basketball from the Utah Jazz. He already was a big star in Canada, and some are asking if he's as big as Wayne Gretzky.

The biggest difference is how he is perceived as a golfer.

Weir was regarded as a solid player, having won five times on the PGA Tour, including showcase titles at the Tour Championship and a World Golf Championship.

Then he won the Masters in a playoff over Len Mattiace.

Does that make him a great player?

"I'm getting there," Weir said. "I think I was probably considered a good player, but I never considered anybody who has not won a major a great player. Maybe I'm turning into a much better player, a great player." AP

TRIBUTE TO BANTAM BEN

Arda: Going strong at 74

BEN Arda's name may no longer ring a bell in this basketball-crazy country, but the 74-year-old teaching pro at the Alabang Country Club is a certifiable golfing legend. He's a sporting demi-god walking—make that hobbling, no thanks to a stroke he suffered in the '90s—among mere mortals.

Virtually unnoticed by golf regulars at Alabang, Arda usually takes a 7 a.m. walk from the club's side entrance to the driving range to be with his student golfers. The supplementary income he picks up from teaching is certainly peanuts compared to the prize money he used to pocket from winning high-profile tournaments years ago.

However, teaching budding golfers gives Arda, he with the perpetual tan from countless hours of hitting golf balls under the searing sun, the satisfaction that can never be bought. He still recalls how as a 14-year-old caddie at the Cebu Country Club, he banked on sheer perseverance and a little luck en route to winning three Philippine Opens as

the most dominant Filipino golfer in the '70s and '80s.

Arda's 5-foot-5 frame belied his tremendous strength then—the full weight of his body propelling every ball and powering every swing. Pros were benchmarked then with a 5-iron which must carry 150 yards to be competitive. Arda had no difficulty hitting that distance at a time when big hitters like him had little help from science, ball and club technology.

In the '70s, he was easily the most written about golfer in the country. Sportswriters then were hard put to get new story angles as Ben would always comment: "Luma na 'yong ginagawa n'yo, marami nang nagulat niyan."

Over three decades, Arda's exploits which ignited national passion for golf during his heyday, are somewhat lost in memory.

(Alabang Club 515 will hold a "Tribute to Ben Arda" golf tournament today, May 9, to raise funds for the three-time RP Open champion and 1970 Asian Circuit winner).

Pals give Seve no sympathy

BIRMINGHAM, England—Seve Ballesteros has had little sympathy from European Tour professionals for being disqualified from last week's Italian Open or for his view that he has been victimized after questioning Tour finances in 2000.

Last Saturday, the Spaniard was disqualified in the third round for refusing to accept a one-shot penalty for slow play.

The five-time major champion is likely to be in further trouble next week when the Tournament Players Committee meets.

Ballesteros had said the Tour and its business partner IMG (International Management Group) were "nearly like the Mafia." On Wednesday, two of the other three in the so called "Gang of Four" who demanded an investigation of the Tour's books three years ago, Nick Faldo and Bernhard Langer, distanced themselves from Ballesteros's accusations. Reuters

Tiger keeps caddie despite Masters fiasco

LOS ANGELES—Tiger Woods blamed his caddie for persuading him to use a driver on the third hole of the final round of the Masters, where a double bogey derailed his chances of winning.

That doesn't mean Steve Williams is out of a job.

"Contrary to some reports, Stevie and I are getting along fine," Woods said Wednesday in his monthly online newsletter. "Stevie and I disagree about club selection all the time, but it's part of the business. Ultimately, it's my responsibility to pull the trigger. In that case, I just hit a bad shot."

Woods was three strokes off the lead in the final round. He usually hits a 3-iron on the 350-yard hole, but Williams wanted him to be aggressive and hit a driver. The ball wound up in the bushes, and Woods had to play a left-handed shot back to the fairway.

He wound up with a 75, his worst final round in a major.

"Stevie has done a wonderful job and we have a great relationship," Woods said. "And you know what? It's not the last time we're going to disagree about club selection."

Woods also got angry with Williams over club selection during the NEC Invitational last year at Sahalee. Tied for the lead in the third round, Williams talked him into a 6-iron instead of a 5-iron on the 17th hole. Woods came up short and made a bogey, and never regained the lead.



TIGER WOODS and caddie Steve Williams: Getting along fine

GETTY IMAGES

Ate Glo's military might

TALKS for a peace agreement between the government and MILF were supposed to begin today and end on Sunday, May 11, in Kuala Lumpur. But said talks will not materialize anymore after President Macapagal-Arroyo cancelled the plan some days back; she did so after rebels attacked the town of Siagon in Zamboanga del Norte last week. An angered Ate Glo even called the group "terrorists."

It did not end there. The President offered P50 million for the heads of MILF leaders. If you don't call that a reiteration of Ate Glo's all-out war against the MILF rebels, you are hopeless, bebe. With the peace process on hold, the ceasefire is off.

Yes, fellas, you got it right; I am again off to another discourse on the Palarong Pambansa. Just can't resist it; the Games have become a national concern, too big an issue to ignore since they practically involve the future stars of our sporting world.

So again, the question: With the recent developments in Mindanao, what happens now to the Palarong Pambansa set to open on May 18 in Tubod, Lanao del Norte?

"We have no plan to reschedule it again," Armed Forces chief Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya was quoted as saying the other day. "We have assured the President about the safety of the Palaro so there's no need to postpone it again, or even cancel it altogether."

The report said Ate Glo had sought Abaya's opinion on the Palaro during the Legislative Development Advisory Council meeting. In case you still don't know, only the President has the final say on whether the Palaro is on or not.

It is this development that emboldened Gov. Imelda Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte all the more to push for the staging of the Palaro "at all costs."

It is this development that prompted Chair Eric Buhan of the Philippine Sports Commission to reiterate his stand that "the Palaro will push through as scheduled and I assure everyone I will be the first and last man standing from Day 1 up to the end when the Games are on. So let's go to Tubod at sama-sama nating isulong ang tagumpay ng Palarong Pambansa roon!"

Brave words and I can't blame Imelda and Eric for putting up such courageous stand.

Look, if you have no less than the country's commander-in-chief (Ate Glo) and her chief of staff (Lt. Gen. Abaya) assuring you of safety, what is there to worry about? Why, if only to stress the obvious, the two have absolute con-

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



trol over the nation's entire military machinery. Their combined powers alone can mobilize the Armed Forces of the Philippines to ring the Mindanao Civic Center, built at a staggering cost of P500 million, while the Palaro is on. If the government has an armed force of, say, 1,000,000 (too huge a number?), just deploy 10,000 of that in Tubod and the 5,000 or so athletes competing in the week-long Games will be fully covered, in the process ensuring, more or less, a terrorist-free atmosphere.

I can understand the almost desperate position being put up by Gov. Dimaporo.

Twice Tubod gave up the hosting of the Palaro to Bacolod and Naga, respectively, in the last five years or so that it had been trying its damndest to stage the Games. The culprit has always been the peace and order situation in Mindanao.

This year, almost everything was in readiness until a fierce firefight between government forces and MILF rebels ensued right at the doorstep of Tubod just days before the Palaro's original scheduled blastoff last May 4. Like scared rabbits, officials quickly repaired to their foxholes and re-mapped their options. They found it wise to reschedule it to May 18-25 after getting the most important assurance of them all: Ate Glo's military might.

But is that enough?

The answer should be an emphatic yes. For if you lose confidence in your own armed forces, what reason have you to live in this land of your birth? As the Great Helmsman, Mao Zedong, said: "Without the army, the people have nothing."

But it is not the army's capability to protect our athletes that I'm worried about, it is the parents' inherent fear for their children to be right there in the middle of it all. Thus, the Palaro has now gone to another plane: Retesting the military's gold medal potential on the crucial matter of securing our children's safety more than the annual hope of flushing out athletes who have the potential to capture medals overseas.

Surely, it's now a different ballgame.

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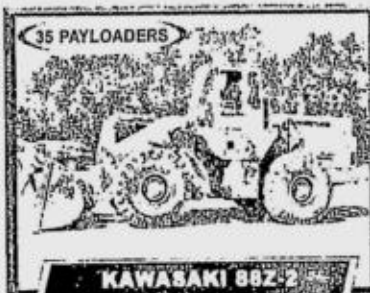
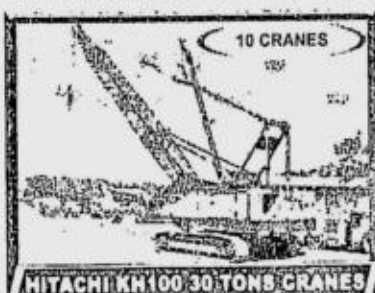
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SPORTS

Answers from A29

1. True; 2. Shaquille O'Neal; 3. Pat Riley; 4. John Stockton;
5. 63; 6. Philadelphia Warriors; 7. Larry McNeill

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SPORTS

MILAN WINNER

Cebuano chesser now an IM

JOSEPH Sanchez became the country's newest international master when he won the 2003 Trofeo Vedior-Bugnion category II closed chess tournament on Monday in Milano, Italy.

The Philippine Navy stalwart scored seven points in nine games, edging Fide master Llambi Quendro of Albania with a higher Bucholz tie break points of 29.00 to Quendro's 25.25.

Sanchez, a Cebuano who holds an Elo of 2342, won over Valerio Di Fonzo (Elo 2233) of Italy, Fide Master Quendro (Elo 2346), Corrado Astengo (Elo 2165) of Italy, FM Folco Castaldo (Elo 2338) of Italy and FM Marco

Sbarra (Elo 2217) of Italy. He drew with IM Andjelko Dragojlovic (Elo 2335) of Yugoslavia, IM Mario Lanzani (Elo 2356) of Italy, IM Daniel Contin (Elo 2340) of Italy, and Giorgio Bertazzo (Elo 2120) of Sweden.

"At last may nangyari rin sa paghihirap ko... I'm happy to inform you I've got my International Master title in a round-robin just finished Monday with a score of 7/9 category 2 rating 2277," said Sanchez through e-mail.

Sanchez is the coach and trainer of GM-candidate Mark Callano Paragua.

According to Fide or World Chess Federation rules, a player who obtains three IM re-

sults, two from the Swiss event and one in the closed tournament, automatically earns an IM title. The player needs only to furnish a copy of the result to the governing chess body in his country (National Chess Federation of the Philippines), which will then apply the IM title of Sanchez to the Fide main office which is based in Switzerland.

According to International Arbiter and NCFP executive director Gene Poliarco, Sanchez got the IM status as he also obtained a three Swiss event result in the Ubeda, Spain International Open in 1997, in the 2002 Genova, Italy and this year's Aosta, Italy tournament.



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300 PBA players, execs to undergo drug testing

STANDINGS	W	L
SMB	8	6
Alaska	8	6
SLR	8	7
FedEx	7	6
Purefoods	5	9
Group B		
Red Bull	11	4
TnT	9	5
Coke	7	6
Ginebra	4	11
Shell	3	10

GAMES TODAY (PhilSports)
5 p.m.—Coke vs Purefoods
7:30 p.m.—FedEx vs Talk 'N' Text

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AT least 300 players, game and league officials of the Philippine Basketball Association will undergo mandatory drug testing within the next few days at a "discounted rate."

This is because the Department of Health has agreed to waive the professional fees of its personnel and the price of the testing kit will also be slashed under the memorandum of agreement forged between the PBA and the DOH yesterday.

PBA technical chief Perry Martinez said conducting such a wide scope of testing would normally cost a fortune.

"They (DOH) waived the professional fees which is a big help for us," said Martinez. "We will give DOH people only token allowances every playing game."

However, he didn't say how much is the token allowance of the DOH personnel, who will now be making rounds of team practices to make "surprise checks" on players and the coaching staff.

The kit used in the preliminary testing costs P150 each, according to Martinez, while the confirmatory tests at the Philippine National Police crime laboratory costs P600.

Referees, too

At least 100 officials, statisticians, table officials and referees will undergo drug tests as well as the almost 200 team members and coaching staff of the 10 squads.

"Right now, the per-team drug testing is already being implemented," said Martinez. "But we are doing it on an unscheduled basis."

The crackdown came after Alex Crisano of Ginebra, Jimwell Torion of Red Bull, Norman Gonzalez and Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text and Dorian Peña of San Miguel were found to have taken banned substance.

Meanwhile, Purefoods makes a last-ditch effort to escape elimination when it takes on Coca Cola today in the PBA Samsung All-Filipino Cup at the PhilSports.

The Hotdogs, languishing in the Group A cellar with a 5-9 record, are in danger of getting booted out if they lose to the defending champion Tigers, who have a 7-6 record.

Talk 'N Text hopes to snatch an outright seat in the quarterfinals when it squares off with FedEx at 7:30 p.m.

The Phone Pals, now the hottest team with five straight victories, are gunning for their 10th win in 15 games against the Express (7-6).

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: Kings vs Mavericks; Game 2; 9:30 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.); Star Sports - Sacramento toyed with Dallas in Game 1, but Nowitzki and the Mavs hope to bounce back and even the series.

GOLF: Chick Fil - A Charity Championship; 2 p.m.; ESPN - The best women's golfers gather in the first round hosted by legend Nancy Lopez.

PGA Wachovia, First Round; 4 p.m. (r); Star Sports - PGA golf action goes underway in Charlotte, North Carolina.

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2 - Efen Reyes Vs Mika Immonen; 7 p.m.; ESPN - The Magician attempts to melt the ice-man in this epic duel.

TENNIS: Telecom Italia Masters; 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. (r); Star Sports - The field is reduced to 16 as the top tennis players battle for the crown in Italy.

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BUSINESS

Gov't gets funding offers for Naia-3 takeover

By Abigail L. Ho

AT LEAST three foreign banks and airport operators have already expressed interest in financing the government's takeover of the controversial Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 (Naia 3) after the Supreme Court nullified airport contractor Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc.'s contract for it.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in a briefing yesterday that the government should not have any problems, funding-wise, in taking over the new terminal.

He pointed out that airport op-

erations were very viable and that there should neither be a lack of potential revenue nor of interested parties to extend financing packages for it.

"They saw the financial statement of the MIAA (Manila Interna-

tional Airport Authority), which had a surplus of about P4 billion. That got them interested," he said.

The government has already come up with a "road map" for its takeover of the new terminal, with the MIAA expected to take the helm in operating it.

Mendoza said the MIAA would likewise be the borrowing agency to finance whatever compensation the government would have to extend to the Piatco shareholders when the high court's order should become final and executory.

German airport contractor Fra-

port AG, which holds a 30-percent stake in Piatco, has explicitly made known its intentions to go after the government for appropriate compensation for the investment it had infused into the new terminal.

An inter-agency body, composed of Mendoza as head, with members Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo, Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee and the MIAA board members, is working on how best to "deal with the different parties involved."

Mendoza said an audit of its actual cost would have to be done by the Commission on Audit to determine how much the Piatco shareholders should get for the new terminal. External auditors could also be commissioned to do their own financial audit.

An audit of the technical aspects of the terminal would also have to be done so that appropriate adjustments could be made to correct whatever defects would be found in it.

MIAA general manager Edgar-

do Manda earlier pointed out 42 defects in the terminal that had to be addressed before it could be opened to the public.

Mendoza said the new terminal could open about four months after the Supreme Court decision shall have become final and executory.

He said the correction of some minor defects and the construction of an internal access road from the Naia 3 to the cargo terminal and Naia terminals 1 and 2 would eat up those four months.

All future costs would be shouldered by the government.

Napocor
losses
seen
to mount

STATE-RUN National Power Corp. is expected to post losses of about P4.92 billion should the independent power producers of Manila Electric Co. run at higher capacities.

Under the recently concluded mediation meeting between Napocor and Meralco, the state firm agreed to let the distribution utility's IPPs run at minimum energy quantities, or the minimum level of capacity for a plant to be efficient.

A presentation by Energy Secretary Vincent Perez stated that the National Transmission Corp. would "optimize dispatch of Meralco IPPs."

This should rebound to savings for the consumers in the form of lower purchased power adjustment costs because with Meralco's IPPs running at higher capacities, the price per kilowatt-hour of electricity would go down due to economies of scale.

However, Napocor would be forced to shut down some of its plants because optimized dispatch from the Lopez-led firm's IPPs would mean less electricity to be drawn from the state firm.

Perez said the extent of the downscaling of Napocor's operations would have to be reviewed, although he did say that there would be a move to lessen stranded costs.

Meralco and Napocor went through a third-party mediation process when talks to determine the continued validity of its 10-year power supply contract bogged down a few months ago.

The process ended on April 25 with the establishment of principal terms and conditions that would still be subject to the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Under the agreement, Meralco would pay Napocor P20.05 billion for unpaid energy from 2002 to 2004, including P1.51 per kWh for energy offtake shortfall up to 2004.

Napocor, on the other hand, would pay Meralco P7.47 billion for transmission delays and turnover delays of directly connected consumers. Abigail L. Ho

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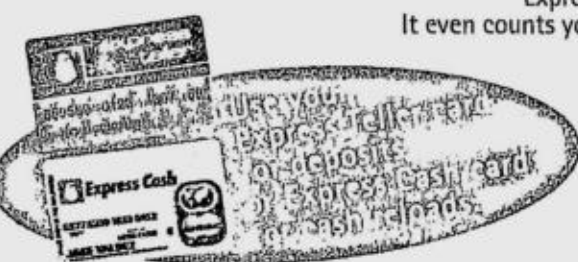
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Ayala, 5 others vie for right to develop 25-ha Boni land

By Doris C. Dumlaio

SIX groups, including property giants Ayala Land Inc. and Robinsons Land Corp., have expressed interest in taking over a 25-hectare prime property within the former Fort Bonifacio military camp in Taguig being bid out by the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

INQUIRER sources privy to the prequalification conference held by the BCDA last Wednesday said four other groups had submitted prequalification applications—Pacific Millennium, Global Alliance group, Mangio and Associates and JAD Holdings.

The property being bid out by the BCDA is outside the 150-ha Fort Bonifacio Global City, which was awarded to a consortium led

by Metro Pacific Corp. in 1995. MPC recently sold out majority control of Global City developer Bonifacio Land Co. to a venture equally owned by the Ayala and Campos groups.

After the 1995 bidding, the BCDA is now focusing on the second phase of its asset disposition program, aiming to maximize revenues needed to bankroll other infrastructure projects. This phase focuses on big, high-yield pieces of property as well as support facilities in Fort Bonifacio and Villamor Air Base.

The 25-hectare property being put on the block by the BCDA in Fort Bonifacio is bounded on the north by the American Battle Monument and on the east by the C-5 highway.

Sources said the BCDA would

screen these groups and announce the prequalified bidders very soon.

Among the groups, ALI has so far the biggest interest in the former military camp. Aside from recently taking over BLC jointly with the Campos group, the property giant is developing Lot C, a 9.9-hectare parcel awarded by the BCDA in 2000 under a leasehold structure, into a regional shopping mall called Market!

In October 2002, ALI likewise bagged a joint-venture contract with the BCDA covering an 8.5-hectare prime lot adjacent to Market! This portion will be developed into a residential area for the middle- and high-end income markets.

The Gokongweis' RLC, on the

other hand, wanted to take over BLC but the twin deal (which included the controlling stake in dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.) hatched last year by JG Summit Holdings chair emeritus John Gokongwei Jr. with MPC's Hong Kong-based parent firm First Pacific Co. Ltd. bogged down.

Pacific Millennium is a realty company specializing in residential and commercial sales, leasing, property management, specialized lending and investment property.

Mangio and Associates is an architectural firm led by Nestor Mangio, a member of Rizal realtors.

SM Prime Holdings Inc. of retail tycoon Henry Sy earlier said it would like to bid on the property, but it did not submit prequalification documents, the sources said.

SUBSCRIBER BASE AT 7M

Globe Telecom posts 39% profit jump

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBE Telecom Inc. posted a 39-percent jump in net income to P2 billion in the first quarter of the year from P1.4 billion in the same period last year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the company attributed the profit jump to the increase in the number of its wireless subscribers, now at more than seven million.

Its subscriber base expanded by 43 percent to more than 7.1 million as of end-March from almost 5 million in the same period last year.

Globe actually posted a profit of P2.7 billion, but a P716-million provision against the equity investment of wholly owned affiliate Isla Communications Co. Inc. in C2C Holdings Pte. Ltd. trimmed it to P2 billion.

During the first quarter, Islacom set up a provision for its equity investment in C2C, the holding company for the C2C cable system.

This was made following C2C's setting up of a provision for asset impairment based on its assessment of the future value of the business.

Islacom's P716-million provision was proportionate to its

4.25-percent equity stake in C2C. Despite the provisions for possible loss in value, the C2C cable system continues to operate.

Globe continued to show a strong performance, especially in the area of wireless communications.

Globe's service revenues, including both wireless and wireline, rose by 24 percent to P11.7 billion from almost P9.5 billion the year before.

Cash flow indicator earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization likewise went up by 32 percent to almost P7 billion from about P5.3 billion as of

end-March 2002.

"We are pleased that in the face of intensified competition and views of a likely slowdown in subscriber growth rate, Globe surpassed the seven-million mark, recording a 43-percent year-on-year increase in its wireless subscriber base in the first quarter of 2003," Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said.

"These encouraging subscriber growth numbers, along the continuing improvements in operational efficiency, give us confidence that Globe will be able to sustain a strong performance throughout the year," he added.

GMA-7 files signal distortion, monopoly charges vs ABS-CBN

GMA Network Inc. has taken its battle for ratings supremacy with ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. to the courts with its filing of a civil case against the company and some Lopez-affiliated cable operators on charges of monopoly and signal distortion.

The country's second biggest broadcasting firm is seeking payment for damages worth about P12 million from ABS-CBN, SkyCable Central CATV Inc., Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc. and Pilipino Cable Corp. as compensation for "acts of unfair competition, corporate combinations and manipulations as well as unjust, oppressive, high-handed and unlawful business practices."

In a case filed with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on May 6, GMA Network accused its rival network and the three cable firms of resorting to all sorts of tactics "to destroy the upswing performance and top position" of the company.

These tactics included control of signal transmission, channel positioning, and airing of free-to-air channels on cable television.

"The cable companies have given ABS-CBN first and preferential telecast, to the prejudice of the other non-cable TV companies like plaintiff GMA, which is given poor, defective and low-density cable transmission and telecast and/or channel assignments," the complaint said.

SkyCable and Home Cable are currently the dominant players in the Metro Manila cable television, holding a commanding 70 percent of the cable television pie. The two companies have consolidated under Beyond Cable Holdings Inc. Pilipino Cable, on the other hand, is the provincial arm of SkyCable.

In February, GMA Network lodged a com-

plaint against the three cable firms with the National Telecommunications Commission because of the "unilateral" transfer of GMA Network's signal to channel 14 from the original channel 12 in the cable firms' system.

GMA Network said this was done "without notice to plaintiff GMA, to the viewing public and to the (NTC), much less without prior approval of plaintiff and the (NTC)."

This re-channeling allegedly caused "disruption and confusion among the viewers of plaintiff GMA's TV shows, titles, telecasts and films" in the SkyCable, Home and Pilipino Cable systems.

Also, the transfer of GMA's signal from channel 12 to channel 14 allegedly resulted in its distortion and some degradation of its quality.

Because of this alleged signal degradation, it claimed that the ratings of its shows were affected, as the signal distortions were usually being done during the airing of the network's top-rating shows.

"It is a matter of common knowledge, and defendants are fully aware, that the quality of signal and audio transmission and established channel position in cable TV of a non-cable television network are crucial factors in arriving at the ratings of the network and its programs," the complaint stated.

"These ratings, GMA Network explained, affected the business judgments of commercial advertisers, producers and even blocktimers. A network depended on revenues from contracts with these entities to survive.

GMA Network filed a similar monopoly and signal degradation case against the three cable firms with the NTC. The case had yet to be heard as it was only filed on April 29. Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 8, 2003)					
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.5	15.75	15	15	277,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	36.5	37	36	36.5	505,800
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	220
Chiyatao Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	25	25	24.75	24.75	24,400
First E-Bank Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	80,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	28	28	27,200
Prudential Bank	375	375	375	375	500
Philippine National Bank	24	24	24	24	3,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10	10	10	10	700
Security Bank Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17	17	17	17	5,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	653,000
First Abn's Financial	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1390	1390	1390	1390	1,380
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1035	1035	1035	1035	1,380
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.73	0.7	0.73	5,300,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	585	570	585	214,020
ISM Communications Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	3,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	15,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	5,570,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel. Co.	380	387.5	380	387.5	145,820
Ivantage Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	40,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	10,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	134,000
Manila Electric Co. B	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	238,000
Patron Corp.	2.12	2.18	2.12	2.16	10,893,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	305,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	72,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	282,000
Construction & Other Related Products					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.53	2,150,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	4,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.58	1.58	130,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.72	560,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	28.5	29	408,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	15	15.75	15	15.5	1,408,300
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	220,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	56.5	56	56.5	17,900
San Miguel Corp. B	65.5	66	65.5	66	105,300
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.05	4.15	4.05	4.15	1,055,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	4,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	40,000
Batabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	120,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.2	0.215	1,170,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	820,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	2,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.3	389,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	170,000
Ion Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.63	200,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	4,000
Kapoor Holdings	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	4,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	640,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	320,000
Music Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,950,000
Philreid Holdings Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	5,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	18,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	10,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	1,000
Manubay Vinyl Corp.	1.8	1.92	1.8	1.92	9,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	370,000
Laisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0024	0.0024	0.002	0.002	9,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	5	4.85	4.95	14,907,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	40,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	620,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.11	0.125	9,350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.16	1,050,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	8,900,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,000,000
Phil-Estate Land Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	1,010,000
Robinsons Land Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	35,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	42,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.85	4.95	4.75	4.85	10,032,000
MINING					
Lapanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	70,000
Lapanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	150,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	3,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	18,000,000
Philux Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	30,000
Philux Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
SHARES					
Bank & Fin Svc	1,717.880	1,717.880	1,717.880	1,717.880	30,816,135.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	42,842.340	42,842.340	42,842.340	42,842.340	208,931,000.00
PRO	46,136.000	46,136.000	46,136.000	46,136.000	130,470,450.00
Mining	21,280.000	21,280.000	21,280.000	21,280.000	127,750.00
Oil	170,200.000	170,200.000	170,200.000	170,200.000	463,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	304,156.020	304,156.020	304,156.020	304,156.020	434,820,025.00
AVERAGES					
Bank & Fin Svc	307.00	307.00	307.00	307.00	DOWN 0.42
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,684.00	1,684.00	1,684.00	1,684.00	UP 12.36
PRO	440.14	440.14	440.14	440.14	DOWN 2.17
Mining	1,172.00	1,172.00	1,172.00	1,172.00	DOWN 2.43
Oil	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	UP 0.03
All Share Index	680.61	680.61	680.61	680.61	DOWN 3.31
Composite	1,078.32	1,078.32	1,078.32	1,078.32	UP 0.42

DISCLOSURES

FIRST Philippine Holdings Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from June 16 to June 9.

SECURITY Bank Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 10, 9 a.m. at the Jonathan Dy Hall, 21/F Security Bank Center, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 21 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

PHILIPPINE Telegraph and Telephone Corp. disclosed the resignation of Moon Hag Kim as director of the company. Elected to replace him was Roderick Salazar III.

MATSUSHITA Electric Philippines Corp. announced the election of Masakazu Yanagawa as new director of the company.

CHINA Banking Corp. declared a 20-percent stock dividend and a P5 per share cash dividend.

KUOK Philippine Properties Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 27 with record date on May 28.

EDSA Properties Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 26 with record date on May 27. Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

May 8, 2003		Euro	Dollar	Peso
Country	Unit	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.879817	1.000000	52.084000
Japan	Yen	0.007580	0.008593	0.447800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.405244	1.597200	83.188800
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112816	0.128226	6.878500
Switzerland	Franc	0.664967	0.755801	39.365100
Canada	Dollar	0.630106	0.716178	37.301400
Singapore	Dollar	0.606719	0.675937	29.997100
Australia	Dollar	0.659467	0.635890	33.119700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.333918	2.652731	138.164800
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.234618	0.266667	13.889100
Brunei	Dollar	0.505265	0.574284	29.911000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000118	0.008100
Thailand	Baht	0.020721	0.023552	1.228700
UAE	Dirham	0.239550	0.272272	14.181000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.136600	59.198700
Argentina	Peso	0.313102	18.535200	
Brazil	Real	0.297638	0.338296	17.619800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134693	0.153092	7.973600
India	Rupee	0.018648	0.021195	1.103900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.231652	0.263193	13.701000
Mexico	New Peso	0.086187	0.097960	5.102100
New Zealand	Dollar	0.487353	0.565291	29.442600
Norway	Kroner	0.127279	0.144666	7.534700
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015248	0.017331	0.902700
South Africa	Rand	0.120656	0.137137	7.142600
Korea	Won	0.000734	0.000834	0.043400
Sweden	Kroner	0.109883	0.124870	6.503700
Syria	Pound	0.020948	0.023810	1.240100
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025428	0.028902	1.505300
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000652	0.000827	0.032700

BUSINESS

Ayala, 5 others vie for right to develop 25-ha Boni land

By Doris C. Dumlaog

SIX groups, including property giants Ayala Land Inc. and Robinsons Land Corp., have expressed interest in taking over a 25-hectare prime property within the former Fort Bonifacio military camp in Taguig being bid out by the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

INQUIRY sources privy to the prequalification conference held by the BCDA last Wednesday said other groups had submitted prequalification applications—Pacific Millennium, Global Alliance group, Mangio and Associates and JAD Holdings.

The property being bid out by the BCDA is outside the 150-ha Fort Bonifacio Global City, which was awarded to a consortium led

by Metro Pacific Corp. in 1995. MPC recently sold out majority control of Global City developer Bonifacio Land Co. to a venture equally owned by the Ayala and Campos groups.

After the 1995 bidding, the BCDA is now focusing on the second phase of its asset disposition program, aiming to maximize revenues needed to bankroll other infrastructure projects. This phase focuses on big, high-yield pieces of property as well as support facilities in Fort Bonifacio and Villamor Air Base.

The 25-hectare property being put on the block by the BCDA in Fort Bonifacio is bounded on the north by the American Battle Monument and on the east by the C-5 highway.

Sources said the BCDA would

screen these groups and announce the prequalified bidders very soon.

Among the groups, ALI has so far the biggest interest in the former military camp. Aside from recently taking over BLC jointly with the Campos group, the property giant is developing Lot C, a 9.9-hectare parcel awarded by the BCDA in 2000 under a leasehold structure, into a regional shopping mall called Market Market.

In October 2002, ALI likewise bagged a joint-venture contract with the BCDA covering an 8.5-hectare prime lot adjacent to Market Market. This portion will be developed into a residential area for the middle- and high-end income markets.

The Gokongweis' RLC, on the

other hand, wanted to take over BLC but the twin deal (which included the controlling stake in dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.) hatched last year by JG Summit Holdings chair emeritus John Gokongwei Jr. with MPC's Hong Kong-based parent firm First Pacific Co. Ltd. bogged down.

Pacific Millennium is a realty company specializing in residential and commercial sales, leasing, property management, specialized lending and investment property.

Mangio and Associates is an architectural firm led by Nestor Mangio, a member of Rizal realtors.

SM Prime Holdings Inc. of retail tycoon Henry Sy earlier said it would like to bid on the property, but it did not submit prequalification documents, the sources said.

SUBSCRIBER BASE AT 7M

Globe Telecom posts 39% profit jump

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBE Telecom Inc. posted a 39-percent jump in net income to P2 billion in the first quarter of the year from P1.4 billion in the same period last year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the company attributed the profit jump to the increase in the number of its wireless subscribers, now at more than seven million.

Its subscriber base expanded by 43 percent to more than 7.1 million as of end-March from almost 5 million in the same period last year.

Globe actually posted a profit of P2.7 billion, but a P716-million provision against the equity investment of wholly owned affiliate Isla Communications Co. Inc. in C2C Holdings Pte. Ltd. trimmed it to P2 billion.

During the first quarter, Islacom set up a provision for its equity investment in C2C, the holding company for the C2C cable system.

This was made following C2C's setting up of a provision for asset impairment based on its assessment of the future value of the business.

Islacom's P716-million provision was proportionate to its

4.25-percent equity stake in C2C. Despite the provisions for possible loss in value, the C2C cable system continues to operate.

Globe continued to show a strong performance, especially in the area of wireless communications.

Globe's service revenues, including both wireless and wireline, rose by 24 percent to P11.7 billion from almost P9.5 billion the year before.

Cash flow indicator earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization likewise went up by 32 percent to almost P7 billion from about P5.3 billion as of

end-March 2002.

"We are pleased that in the face of intensified competition and views of a likely slowdown in subscriber growth rate, Globe surpassed the seven-million mark, recording a 43-percent year-on-year increase in its wireless subscriber base in the first quarter of 2003," Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said.

"These encouraging subscriber growth numbers, along the continuing improvements in operational efficiency, give us confidence that Globe will be able to sustain a strong performance throughout the year," he added.



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- 1999 BMW 320i Alpina Silver on black leather interior, 50T km, P850T As low as P 100,000 down or P10,000/mo.
- 2002 BMW 318i M Sport Alpina Silver on black leather interior, 10T km, P1.65M As low as P 100,000 down or P10,000/mo.
- 1999 BMW 520i Alpina Silver on black leather interior, 21T km, P1.8M As low as P 100,000 down or P10,000/mo.
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GMA-7 files signal distortion, monopoly charges vs ABS-CBN

GMA Network Inc. has taken its battle for ratings supremacy with ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. to the courts with its filing of a civil case against the company and some Lopez-affiliated cable operators on charges of monopoly and signal distortion.

The country's second biggest broadcasting firm is seeking payment for damages worth about P12 million from ABS-CBN, SkyCable Central CATV Inc., Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc. and Pilipino Cable Corp. as compensation for "acts of unfair competition, corporate combinations and manipulations as well as unjust, oppressive, high-handed and unlawful business practices."

In a case filed with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on May 6, GMA Network accused its rival network and the three cable firms of resorting to all sorts of tactics "to destroy the upswing performance and top position" of the company.

"These tactics included control of signal transmission, channel positioning, and airing of free-to-air channels on cable television."

"The cable companies have given ABS-CBN first and preferential telecast, to the prejudice of the other non-cable TV companies like plaintiff GMA, which is given poor, defective and low-density cable transmission and telecast and/or channel assignments," the complaint said.

SkyCable and Home Cable are currently the dominant players in the Metro Manila cable television, holding a commanding 70 percent of the cable television pie. The two companies have consolidated under Beyond Cable Holdings Inc.

Pilipino Cable, on the other hand, is the provincial arm of SkyCable.

In February, GMA Network lodged a com-

plaint against the three cable firms with the National Telecommunications Commission because of the "unilateral" transfer of GMA Network's signal to channel 14 from the original channel 12 in the cable firms' system.

GMA Network said this was done "without notice to plaintiff GMA, to the viewing public and to the (NTC), much less without prior approval of plaintiff and the (NTC)."

This re-channeling allegedly caused "disruption and confusion among the viewers of plaintiff GMA's TV shows, titles, telecasts and films" in the SkyCable, Home and Pilipino Cable systems.

Also, the transfer of GMA's signal from channel 12 to channel 14 allegedly resulted in its distortion and some degradation of its quality.

Because of this alleged signal degradation, it claimed that the ratings of its shows were affected, as the signal distortions were usually being done during the airing of the network's top-rating shows.

"It is a matter of common knowledge, and defendants are fully aware, that the quality of signal and audio transmission and established channel position in cable TV of a non-cable television network are crucial factors in arriving at the ratings of the network and its programs," the complaint stated.

"These ratings, GMA Network explained, affected the business judgments of commercial advertisers, producers and even blocktimers. A network depended on revenues from contracts with these entities to survive.

GMA Network filed a similar monopoly and signal degradation case against the three cable firms with the NTC. The case had yet to be heard as it was only filed on April 29. Abigail L. Ho

Stock prices end little changed

STOCKS ended little changed yesterday as investors sat tight for first-quarter results from some of the country's top companies, traders said.

Strength in Globe Telecom and PLDT helped the broad market stave off early losses.

The main composite index ended up 0.42 of a point or 0.04 percent at 1,078.32. Turnover grew to P434.9 million from Wednesday's P299.6 million.

Globe rose P15 or 2.6 percent to P585 after it posted earnings and subscriber growth in the first quarter that surprised on the upside.

"For PLDT it is one of the stocks that is a consensus buy among local and foreign brokerages," said Oliver Plana,

head of sales at Asiasec Equities. The country's leading phone firm is set to announce first-quarter results next week, with market players expecting a hefty surge in its income as well.

Bank of the Philippine Islands, also owned by the Ayala Corp. conglomerate, fell one peso to P36.50.

Reuters

INTEREST RATES

May 08, 2003-MART1 Rates	MART1	MART1
Benchmark	0-May-03	7-May-03
Interest	(%)	(%)
1 Month	7.6269	7.8096
3 Months	7.8827	7.9019
6 Months	8.6938	8.7648
1 Year	9.0098	9.0635
2 Years	9.5192	9.5288
3 Years	10.5154	10.4673
4 Years	11.1981	11.1731
5 Years	11.5423	11.5269
7 Years	12.0019	11.9979
10 Years	12.7346	12.8154
20 Years	13.0873	13.2519
25 Years	13.645	13.7096

SOURCE: MARTI/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 8, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.5	15.75	15	15	277,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	36.5	37	36	36.5	555,800
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	220
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	25	25	24.75	24.75	24,400
First E-Bank Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	60,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	28	28	27,200
Prudential Bank	375	375	375	375	500
Philippine National Bank	24	24	24	24	3,500
Rizal Com. Banking Corp.	10	10	10	10	700
Security Bank Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	5,000
Union Bank of the Phi	17	17	17	17	5,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	653,000
First Ab	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	100,000
Manila	1390	1390	1390	1390	1,380
San Li	1035	1035	1035	1035	1,380
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom. Inc.	0.71	0.73	0.7	0.73	300,000
EasyCall Phils. Inc.-Com	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	585	570	585	214,020
ISM Communications Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	3,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	15,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	5,570,000
Phil. Long Dis. Tel. Co.	380	387.5	380	387.5	145,020
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	10,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	134,000
Manila Electric Co. B	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	238,000
Petrone Corp.	2.12	2.18	2.12	2.16	10,893,000
Saion Power Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	72,000
Intl Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	262,000
Construction & Other Related Products					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	150,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	4,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.58	1.58	130,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.72	500,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Genabro San Miguel Inc.	29	29	28.5	28	408,000
Golden Foods Corp.	15	15.75	15	15.5	1,409,300
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	220,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	56.5	56	56.5	17,900
San Miguel Corp. B	65.5	65	65.5	66	106,300
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.05	4.15	4.05	4.15	1,055,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	4,000,000
ATM Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	40,000
Banabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	120,000
Bonanza Holdings Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.21	1,170,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	820,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	2,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.3	389,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	170,000
Ionics Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.63	200,000
J.G. Summit Holdings I	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
Kapitel Holdings	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	4,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	140,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	120,000
Musica Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,950,000
Philinvest Holdings Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	5,000
Reitas Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	18,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	10,000
Matsushita Elec. Phil. Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.8	1.92	3,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.4	200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	370,000
Louisana & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	200,000

Next target: Capwire

COMEBACKING
Nextel has reached an informal agreement to acquire Capwire lock-stock-and-the-debt-barrel from the Santiagos.

According to the grapevine, Capwire will formally inform its creditor banks next week about the Nextel (now known as Next Mobile) offer and gain their approval.

Capwire has about P1 billion in exposure with a consortium of local banks led by Land Bank and Philippine National Bank.

Aside from taking over Capwire's liabilities, Next Mobile CEO Mel Velarde has offered P100 million cash up front to the Santiagos, as well as the assignment of P200 million in Capwire's collectibles to the founding family.

Even after losing Capwire, telecom tycoon Jose Luis Santiago is still left with the publicly listed PT & T, whose nation-

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

wide landline backbone and reach is said to be longer than dominant carrier PLDT, and Pocket-bell, the moribund paging company.

According to an industry insider, Next Mobile is after Capwire's wide-ranging franchise to beef up Nextel's limited trunked-radio license, especially in the light of another ongoing congressional investigation from the so-called "harass" committee.

The congressional investigation was prompted by a complaint from former Nextel CEO Antonio Urera, who is asking for \$5 million more on top of the P12-

million (net of all taxes) retirement package he received for his three-year stint as CEO at P1.2

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* Note: PRULINK Funds were launched last September 18 2002

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Gov't to scrap, scale down ODA-funded projects

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to terminate or scale down a significant number of official development assistance (ODA)-funded projects lined up for 2003 to 2009 to ease pressure on the country's fiscal position.

A source from the National Economic and Development Authority said about 109 projects

approved for ODA financing were likely to be affected by this move.

These projects include the Sixth Road Public Works Project, Bohol Second Irrigation Project, Maritime Safety Project, RP-Spain Acquisition of Vessels Project, Pasig River Rehabilitation Project and Metro Manila Urban Transport Project.

The scrapping of these projects was estimated to reduce by \$524

million the \$7.24 billion in ODA funding commitments that the country has secured for the 109 projects from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

"We (Neda executive committee) reviewed ODA-funded projects in the pipeline and we identified 109 of them for termination or scaling down," said the Neda official.

The official said the committee—composed of the Neda, the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Finance—together with implementing agencies would meet on Tuesday to finalize the list of projects for cancellation or scaling down.

In a recent interview, Neda Assistant Director General for National Development Rolando

Tungpalan said the government would also take into consideration the country's fiscal program and medium-term expenditure framework in deciding what projects to be proposed for the World Bank's country program for 2004 to 2006.

He said that in the meeting with the World Bank on Monday, the government would propose projects that would be within the

means of the government's financial capacity.

"They should not only be guided by the budget for the year, but also by the debt servicing requirements in the future. The moment you obtain a loan tomorrow, you will have to provide appropriations for the next five to seven years, which is the average time frame for implementation," Tungpalan said.

Monetary Board keeps policy rates steady

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AFP

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GOINGS-ON

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Aside from the exhibit, seminars on the government's modernization efforts and technology issues will also be held.

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Cocktales

From page B3

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Faulty marketing

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Technology

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Conclusion

On May 19, the NMAT will meet the governor and the mango sector of Bulacan. On May 21, it will be Quezon. In every province, the private sector takes the lead in partnership with the governors and mayors, with the DA and other agencies providing the needed support. This is but a part of the private sector's continuing initiative to address the mango industry's problems in each of our 26 mango producing provinces. It is hoped that other sectors follow this model. For in many cases, it is the private sector that is in the best position to take the lead in creating jobs and building our nation.

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Gov't to scrap, scale down ODA-funded projects

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to terminate or scale down a significant number of official development assistance (ODA)-funded projects lined up for 2003 to 2009 to ease pressure on the country's fiscal position.

A source from the National Economic and Development Authority said about 109 projects

approved for ODA financing were likely to be affected by this move.

These projects include the Sixth Road Public Works Project, Bohol Second Irrigation Project, Maritime Safety Project, RP-Spain Acquisition of Vessels Project, Pasig River Rehabilitation Project and Metro Manila Urban Transport Project.

The scrapping of these projects was estimated to reduce by \$524

million the \$7.24 billion in ODA funding commitments that the country has secured for the 109 projects from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

"We (Neda executive committee) reviewed ODA-funded projects in the pipeline and we identified 109 of them for termination or scaling down," said the Neda official.

The official said the committee—composed of the Neda, the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Finance—together with implementing agencies would meet on Tuesday to finalize the list of projects for cancellation or scaling down.

In a recent interview, Neda Assistant Director General for National Development Rolando

Tungpalan said the government would also take into consideration the country's fiscal program and medium-term expenditure framework in deciding what projects to be proposed for the World Bank's country program for 2004 to 2006.

He said that in the meeting with the World Bank on Monday, the government would propose projects that would be within the

means of the government's financial capacity.

"They should not only be guided by the budget for the year, but also by the debt servicing requirements in the future. The moment you obtain a loan tomorrow, you will have to provide appropriations for the next five to seven years, which is the average time frame for implementation," Tungpalan said.

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Gov't to cut programmed foreign borrowings

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to cut the remaining \$900 million in its programmed foreign borrowings for the year if it could raise more funds from the local market and sustain strong revenue collections.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said a good market reception to its forthcoming retail bond issue would also be a factor. The higher the proceeds from the three-and-five-year retail bonds, the bigger the cut would be.

Of the \$2.4 billion the government must

borrow from foreign markets this year to partly finance a deficit of P202 billion, some \$1.5 billion was already raised.

The government floated \$500-million worth of 10-year global bonds in November and another \$500 million worth of bonds in January, sold \$200-million worth of zero coupon bonds to HSBC and issued \$300-million worth of seven-year euro bonds in February.

Edeza said improving revenues in April bolstered the government's plan to trim down its dollar debts, especially after the central

bank advised the Department of Finance in March to go slow on foreign borrowings.

Based on preliminary figures, the Bureau of Internal Revenue delivered about P50.3 billion, bringing its January to April collections to roughly P140 billion.

For April alone, the BIR exceeded by P2.2 billion its P47.4 billion goal.

The Bureau of Customs collected P35.9 billion from January to April against a target of P30.7 billion while the Bureau of Treasury delivered P16.5 billion against a goal of only P6.5 billion.

Private sector key to mango industry dev't

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

IN creating jobs and building a nation, it is not always the government that should play the decisive role. In the swine industry, which was being destroyed by rampant smuggling and the illegal entry of "carabeef" into the wet markets, it was the government that had the authority to take action. In the case of mango, where there is no smuggling but instead production and market deficiencies, it is the private sector that must take the lead. However, in both cases, the government and the private sector must work together.

In the swine industry, the government was helped by private sector vigilance in correcting faulty import policies and procedures. But in the mango industry, it was government that catalyzed the changes where the private sector is now taking the lead.

Background

Last year, the Department of Agriculture (DA) initiated a P500,000-Mango Master Plan. At that time, we at the DA believed this plan would not result in action unless the private sector owned the formulation and the implementation of this plan. Therefore, a National Mango Action Team (NMAT) was created. This was composed of private sector stakeholders as well as the appropriate government sector representatives led by Renato Florencio, president of the Philippine Mango Industry Federation.

These efforts have since resulted in the formation of provincial mango action teams that coordinated with the NMAT for synergistic direction. The Mango Master plan was approved in June last year and the NMAT was organized a month later. Since then, other industry sectors have expressed their desire to use NMAT as their model for their sector's improvement. Two cases in the recent past are Mayor Benjamin Lim of Dagupan, Pangasinan, who expressed his desire for a similar model for bangus and Antonio Partoza, president of the Mindanao Fruit Council for durian. Several governors from Luzon, Visayas and Min-

danao have thrown their full support behind this model. Why has this happened? Because this private sector initiative has successfully taken the lead in addressing the sector's problems. Renato Florencio identified three such initiatives.

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US Fed sets sights on averting potential deflation

WASHINGTON—US Federal Reserve policymakers, who for decades have been trying to squeeze out inflation, now find themselves trying to avert the prospect of potentially crippling deflation.

The Fed on Tuesday, in a surprise shift of focus, acknowledged the threat of downward pressure on prices, although it carefully avoided using the word "deflation."

The Federal Open Market Committee statement said "the probability of an unwelcome substantial fall in inflation, though minor, ex-

ceeds that of a pickup in inflation from its already low level."

The panel kept the federal funds base rates at a four-decade low of 1.25 percent.

Analysts said the Fed and its chairman, Alan Greenspan, were trying to signal that they would seek to head off, possibly through a further cut in rates, the possibility of a deflationary spiral, which could deal a crippling blow to economic growth.

"That is about as blunt a warning about potential deflation as we would expect to hear from the Fed," said Mark Vitner,

senior economist at Wachovia Securities.

"We still believe that the risks of absolute deflation are relatively low, and the Fed apparently feels that way, too ... While the Fed feels that there is only a 'minor' chance of outright deflation, they appear poised to undertake maximum precautions to prevent it from becoming entrenched," Robert DiClemente at Smith Barney said the Fed "made an important change to the implied rules governing near-term policy decisions" by making a distinction on growth prospects and infla-

tion—or deflation—risks.

This "effectively has opened the door to possible further easing (of rates) even in the event that recovery picks up in the months ahead."

"I think that this is an historic statement by the Fed," said Robert Brusca, chief economist at Ecobest Consulting.

"I'm not aware of any policy statement made any time by any central bank that officially says that any further drop in inflation would be bad."

Deflation, or falling prices, deals a double blow to economies

by pressuring people to postpone buying until prices fall further, and by raising real interest rates. It is also very difficult to reverse, as Japan has learned.

"Deflation is a major concern for Chairman Greenspan," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo Bank.

"After studying Japan, the Federal Reserve concluded that the Bank of Japan didn't recognize deflationary symptoms early enough. Japan underestimated the consequences of the bubble and was too optimistic, thus keeping interest rates too high

and too long. The Federal Reserve is determined not to repeat the same mistake ... Chairman Greenspan wants to err on the side of caution, especially because inflation won't be a problem in the near future."

Some economists were less sanguine about the economic outlook, including Stephen Roach at Morgan Stanley, who has been voicing concern for months about a global downturn as the US economy sputters.

"The case for global deflation is not just theoretical conjecture," Roach said. **AFP**

SARS will slow East Asia growth

WASHINGTON—Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said on Wednesday that SARS will slow East Asia's economic growth by half to one percent this year.

"These measures that are being put in place to contain SARS will need time to take effect. So SARS will slow down economic growth in East Asia by half to one percent this year. There will be difficult adjustments," he said in a speech to the Asia Society.

The region has not yet recovered from the 1997 Asian financial crisis, is still trying to cope with the post-Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist threat and does "not need another headache" like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, he said.

Goh, who earlier in the day met President George W. Bush at the White House, said SARS had given Asia a "small foretaste" of what a biological weapons attack would be like.

But the region has begun to shape a concerted response

while maintaining the openness critical to East Asian prosperity, he added.

Singapore halved its forecast for 2003 economic growth on April 17, citing fallout from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome which has killed 27 people in the city-state out of 204 reported cases—the world's third-highest death toll from the virus.

China, where the disease is believed to have originated, has been the worst-hit.

The flu-like disease has killed at least 214 people of 4,409 reported cases there, out of 7,000 people infected and almost 500 dead worldwide.

Goh said that even China, which was roundly criticized for a slow response to the problem, "is facing up to its responsibilities."

He cited Beijing's decision to fire its health minister and appoint Wu Yi—"a vice premier with an Iron Lady reputation"—to the position. **Reuters**

TAX BREAK LAWS

EU sets deadline for resolving spat with US

BRUSSELS/WASHINGTON—The European Commission on Wednesday gave the United States an autumn deadline to change disputed tax break laws for major corporations or face the threat of up to \$4.0 billion in sanctions.

The long-running dispute over the tax benefits for major US exporting companies such as Boeing and Microsoft is one of a series of European Union-US trade spats.

It re-emerged days after the two pledged to work together to boost stalled global trade talks.

"The Commission will review the situation in the autumn," said European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy after the Geneva-based World Trade Organization (WTO) gave the EU the final green light to impose the sanctions.

"If there is no sign that compliance is on the

way at that time, it (the Commission) would then start the legislative procedure for the adoption of countermeasures by January 1, 2004," he added in a statement.

The United States has been discussing ways it can comply with the WTO rulings against the system of tax breaks, known as the foreign sales corporation program.

Although here is general agreement on the need to repeal the tax breaks to comply with the WTO, key lawmakers have different ideas how to use the \$50 billion in expected tax revenue over ten years to help US companies.

Progress also has been delayed by a fight in Congress over the final size of a \$750 billion tax cut sought by President George W. Bush to help boost the US economy.

Richard Mills, a spokesman for the US

Trade Representative's office, said he could not comment on whether the United States would meet the EU's autumn deadline for action.

But Mills said, "as we've made clear, the United States intends to comply with our international obligations." He added that Congress is "increasingly focused" on the issue, with key lawmakers in both the House of Representatives and the Senate working on legislative solutions.

Mills also warned that retaliation was a "double-edged sword" that could hurt EU consumers and European firms with operations in the United States as much as it would US companies.

"The EC has indicated that they would prefer compliance over retaliation. We prefer this as well," he said. **Reuters**

KLM posts record net loss, sees no recovery

AMSTERDAM—KLM, Europe's fourth-largest airline, reported a record full-year net loss of 416 million euros (\$472.7 million) on Thursday and said it saw no short-term improvement in an operating environment hit by a weak global economy and the SARS virus.

Excluding exceptional charges, mainly related to a hefty alimony payment to jilted parter Alitalia, the loss came to a worse than expected 186 million euros, on sales of 6.49 billion euros.

The Dutch carrier was expected to post a loss excluding exceptionals of 123 million euros in the fiscal year ending in March, on sales flat at 6.53 billion, according to a Reuters poll of 12 analysts.

KLM was showing signs of recovery following the 2001 hijack attacks in the United States but the prolonged economic slowdown, the war in Iraq and the first signs of SARS made for a rough landing in the final

months of its fiscal year.

KLM reiterated that it planned to cut about a tenth of its 30,000-strong workforce to reap savings of 650 million euros annually by March 2005.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), is the latest in a string of afflictions hitting the airline sector, forcing air carriers to slash flights to China and other affected areas. **Reuters**

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BASF Agricultural Products strengthen muscles

BASF Aktiengesellschaft, Ludwigshafen, Germany, has completed the acquisition of a package of agricultural products purchased from Bayer CropScience AG, Monheim, Germany. The acquisition, which includes the leading new chemistry insecticide fipronil and selected fungicides for seed treatment applications, significantly strengthens BASF's Agricultural Products business.

"This acquisition allows us to considerably enhance our insecticide business, especially in growing and attractive specialty markets. The seed treatment business is also a very good fit with our new fungicides which have excellent potential in this market," said Peter Oakley, member of BASF's board of executive directors for the agricultural products and nutrition segment.

Fipronil is a broad-spectrum insecticide from the new insecticide chemistry class of phenyl pyrazoles. It has an excellent activity against many major insect pests in crop and non-crop markets. The most important uses are soil application and seed treatment in crop and termite control in non-crop markets. Fipronil is currently registered and sold over 70 coun-

tries. The fungicides included in the acquisition are triticonazole, iprodione, prochloraz, pyrimethanil and fluquinconazole for certain uses and regions.

The manufacturing facilities for fipronil, triticonazole, and iprodione, located at Elbeuf, France, and employing about 340 persons are also part of the transaction.

"With this acquisition we close a strategic gap in our insecticides portfolio, strengthen our position in growing market segments, such as seed treatment and non-crop uses, and create market synergies with our current portfolio," says Hans W. Reiners, head of BASF's Agricultural Products division. "Based on our effective R&D we will broaden our expertise. Our strong presence in all major markets will enable us to rapidly integrate this products. As a preferred partner we will offer additional value to our customers and the entire value chain."

The total package with sales of EUR 500 million in 2001 is valued at EUR 1,330 million. Taking into consideration back-licenses granted to BASF to Bayer CropScience for selected non-agricultural uses, the pur-

chase price amounts to EUR 1,185 million.

While conditions in the agricultural markets continue to be challenging, Reiners sees a promising future for BASF in this market: "With the acquired products and our new market introductions, we have a strong foundation for growth. This is an important step towards achieving our mid-term goal of a 25 percent Ebitda margin."

As a result of this acquisition, in the Philippines, the following products will be sold exclusively by BASF Philippines Inc.: Ascend 50 SC and Regent 0.3 GR.

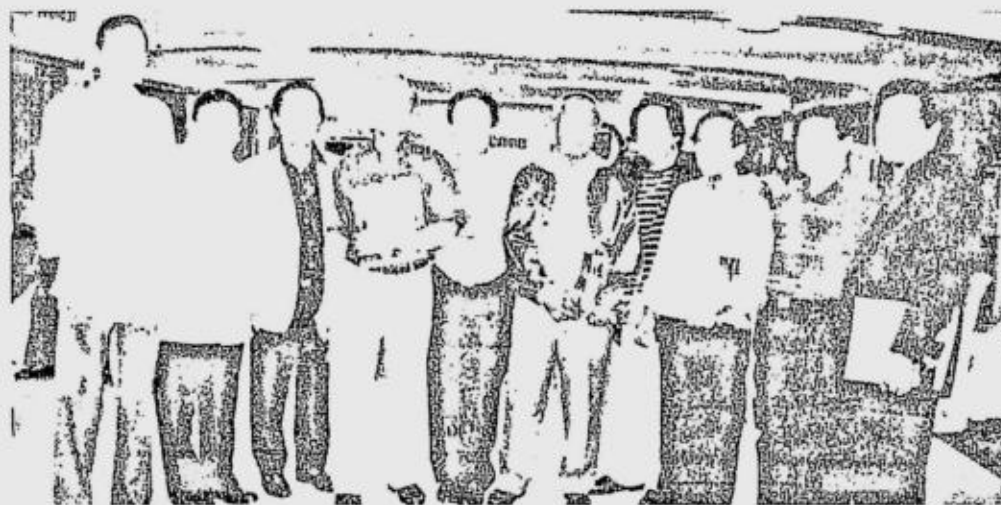
"Everybody in BASF's Agricultural Products team here in the Philippines, is extremely excited about incorporating this new business into our existing portfolio. It is my full conviction that this will add significant value for our customers and it will strengthen our partnership," says Lau Kin Pong, president of BASF Philippines Inc. "This year, BASF celebrates 40 years of excellent partnership with our customers and business partners, and with this new development, I am looking forward to a stronger future," Lau added.



CCAT HOLDS 2ND COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

The Career Center & Training (CCAT), a Tesda-accredited institution offering caregiver training certificate, among others, recently held its 2nd commencement exercises at Patio Manila Restaurant, Ramon Magsaysay Center Bldg., Roxas Blvd. The commencement exercises also coincided with the celebration of the center's 1st anniversary last month. Keynote speaker was

Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who is shown with CCAT president Dr. Angel C. Manlapaz, DMD (to his right) and CCAT graduates Diosdado Manalo, Rhander Hizon and Fe Tanan. For information about ongoing and forthcoming courses, contact telephone numbers 550-1592/1593. CCAT is located at the corner of Emilia and Bautista Sts., Bgy. Palanan, Makati City.



NPC BOOK LAUNCHING

Senior members of the National Press Club attended the launching of the Club's Golden Jubilee book "50 Golden Years" held at the NPC's Bulwagang Plaridel in Intramuros. The NPC Lifetime members are (from left): Rolly Estabillo, Diego Cagahastian, NPC Commemorative Book chair

Sanny Galvez, Rep. Satur Ocampo, Rafael Dante Cruz, Tony Antonio, Butch Galicia, Maning Almarino, Greg Cendena and Dads Beltran. The 210-page coffee table book contains articles, recollections, essays, photos and perspectives on the first five decades of the club.



TAN YAN KEE FOUNDATION INKS DEED OF DONATION FOR BSU

Dr. Lucio C. Tan (center, seated), chair of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc. signs a deed of donation to assist Bulacan State University (BSU) in constructing the Marcelo H. Del Pilar College of Law building, a three-storey structure inside the BSU campus in Malolos Bulacan. Witnessing the sign-

ing ceremony are trustees of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation as well as BSU officers and staff led by its president Dr. Rosario Pimentel (2nd from right, seated). The Tan Yan Kee Foundation is the main foundation of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies.



ORACLE COLLABORATION SUITE LAUNCH

Oracle Phils. Corp., local subsidiary of the world's largest enterprise software company, recently unveiled its latest technology, Oracle Collaboration Suite, to some 200 C-level business and IT managers. At less than half the price of competing collaboration products, Oracle Collaboration Suite introduces real-time communication features, online meetings and instant messaging, integrated with

the other components of the suite to offer unmatched productivity benefits. Photo shows (from left) Joel Garcia, Oracle e-Business Solutions manager, and Chris Hummel, Oracle Asia Pacific marketing and business development vice president, explaining to their audience how Oracle Collaboration Suite drives down the costs of administration, software, hardware and migration.



FAMILYANG OFWS-SMES NEWS BUREAU

Administrator Virgilio Angelo (second from left, with microphone) of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration explains the plans, program and priorities of the Owwa for the welfare and benefit of the overseas Filipino workers and their families during an interview in "Pamilyang Overseas Filipino Workers - Small and Medium Entrepreneurs News Bureau" which is broadcast every Saturday over DZRJ 810 AM (9-10 a.m.) and

Kabayan Radio (30-8.30p.m.). Also shown are (from left): George Arriola, co-host of radio program and president of Pamilyang OFWS-SMES Network Foundation Inc.; Emy Aguinaldo, marketing officer of POFW-SMENFI; Gerry Ong, co-host of radio program and vice president of POFW-SMENFI; and Ricardo Casco, welfare officer of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.



ADMU LAUNCHES MA JOURN.

Makati Business Club president, Guillermo Luz, delivers the keynote address during the launch of the Ateneo de Manila University's MA Journalism program last Feb. 19 at the Ateneo Professional Schools, Rockwell Center, Makati City.

Art workshop for Makati execs

ON Wednesday, May 14 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the Positivism Art Gallery will conduct an art workshop for Makati executives and employees who wish to learn the basics of drawing and advanced painting using pencil, charcoal, water color, oil pastel and mixed media with focus on portraiture, caricature, fashion and figure illustrations, landscape and still life. The once a week art lessons (for eight weeks) will be conducted by positivism exponent and painter E.R. Tagle at the Enterprise Plaza, San Antonio Village, Makati City. Only eight students will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. Enrollment is going on. For inquiries, call 999-6358 or 0917-972-6223.

Eclectic Expressions at Celebrity Place

GALERIA De Nava celebrates the merry month of May with an exhibit titled "Eclectic Expressions V" at the lobby of The Celebrity Place (formerly the Celebrity Sports Plaza), Capitol Hills, Quezon City. Featured are the works of the country's leading artists such as Malang Santos, Juvenal Sanso, Angel Cacnio, Manuel Baldemor, Elmer Borlongan, Caloy Gabuco, Solano Cruz, Nards Zepeda, Marcel Antonio, Angelito Antonio, Ronald Ventura, Norma Belleza, Juliet dela Torre, Felix Amoncio, Jake Catah and Jimmy Kwong. Launched last year, Eclectic Expressions is a series of mobile art exhibits showcasing rural landscapes, pastoral scenes, flowers, Philippine fiestas, mother and child, seascapes, gardenscapes, still lifes and avant garde paintings. Now on its fifth edition, the show aims to bring art prices to a wider audience in non-traditional exhibit areas. The exhibit runs until May 12. For inquiries call 935-3272 or 0920-6068566.

Math in Marketing Communications seminar

A ONE day comprehensive seminar program on integrated marketing communications principles and a review of selected mathematical models and measurement scales relative to advertising and promotion. Exercises on applications of latest media rating software and planning media indices are integral part of the seminar. The Math in Marketing Communications is for advertising and promotions executives, marketing planners and strategists, and media specialists who need to know the essence of measuring media ratings, performance evaluation of agency by clients; to understand the concept of target marketing in an integrated marketing communication program. The seminar will be held on May 12 at Dusit Hotel, Makati City. For more information, get in touch with Meeting Points International and look for Junie at (02) 895-5735; 895-2363; fax (02) 890-7532; email: meetings@philonline.com.ph.

Skycity environmentally safe and friendly

The Skycity, a landmark project to be located at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City, is designed to be environmentally safe and friendly. "Nothing is being left to chance in the planning and designing of this state of the art building," E. Ganzon Inc., vice president for external affairs Bobby de Castro declares. "This is the reason why even if it is taking a longer time to process its environmental clearance certificate," de Castro continues, "the company is willing to walk the mile to get it."

The Skycity, once completed, will be a landmark project and will certainly put the Philippines in the map of countries with tall buildings. The ambitious condominium buildings will have 87 levels all in all. Efforts are being made to ensure that all conditions for its contribution to the economy, social life, the improvement of the quality of life of those to be benefited, the community and the national weal in general are optimized. Such details as water consumption recycling, fire refuge zones, ample water reservoirs without adversely affecting the needs of the community, fast elevators, filtering of liquid effluents before their discharge to the public sewer lines, traffic management within the building to contribute towards road efficiency, pedestrian traffic control, rain catchment system, and so on, has made technical people of note gasp that the architectural and engineering wonder is "a stroke of engineering genius."

Structural design bolstered by consultants' research both here and abroad, careful geological studies and Environment Impact Assessment studies have been used to ensure the environmental and structural viability of the project. From the technical and legal point of view, the Skycity has scored progressive victories in the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board. Recently, the Greenhills East Association, known protagonist for the "No to High Rise" crusade, suffered another setback when the Office of the President ruled against its appeal to deny a development permit to the project.

It is undeniable that no one can stop progress. Otherwise, improvement in the quality of life of communities will be stunted and the general welfare would be sacrificed for the vested interest of a few. The bottomline is really whether the positive impacts of a given project surpass its negative impacts and whether the effects of the negative impacts, given the positive impacts, can be mitigated at least, if not eliminated. The real world, considering conflicting interests of various groups on a given issue, only demand that the undeniable march of people for a better life should not be stubbornly hindered.

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NTT DoCoMo back in black

TOKYO—NTT DoCoMo, Japan's top mobile phone operator, swung into profit in the 12 months to March and said on Thursday it expects net earnings to triple this year, putting overseas losses behind it while it drums up demand for third-generation services.

DoCoMo, Asia's most valuable stock with a market value of about \$115 billion, said it expected its 3G operation—long plagued by technical glitches and consumer disinterest—to post strong growth when new handsets hit stores this autumn.

Demand for DoCoMo's high-speed 3G service, which offers video phone calling and fast Web connections, picked up after the recent launch of new models with longer battery life.

But the carrier's network still reaches far fewer subscribers than a 3G service at rival KDDI Corp.

DoCoMo's future results will also no longer be weighed down by heavy losses on overseas investments, which forced it to book huge write-offs over

the past two years.

DoCoMo splashed out 1.9 trillion yen (\$16.3 billion) to take minority stakes in several foreign carriers, but the strategy backfired after the bursting of the telecoms share price bubble.

DoCoMo said group net profit totaled 212.5 billion yen (\$1.83 billion) in the year ended in March. That compared with a net loss of 116.2 billion yen a year earlier.

Revenues rose 3.2 percent to 4.81 trillion yen.

For the current business year to March 2004, DoCoMo expected net profit to nearly triple to 618 billion yen, beating the median analyst forecast of a 595-billion yen profit, as compiled by Reuters Research.

The company projected its revenues would grow 1.9 percent to 4.9 trillion yen, compared with analysts' consensus forecast of 4.79 trillion yen.

Revenue growth has been slowing in Japan's saturated mobile phone market and cell phone operators hope 3G services will be the next growth driver. *Reuters*

Japan's economy stood still in first quarter, survey says

TOKYO—Growth in Japan's economy likely slowed to zero in the first three months of 2003 as exports, one of its key props, stalled, canceling out resilience in private consumption and business investment, a Reuters poll showed on Thursday.

The poll of 25 economists produced a median forecast of 0.0 percent change in gross domestic product (GDP) in the three months that ended on March 31 over the previous quarter, or a decline of 0.1 percent on an annualized basis.

The forecasts ranged from growth of 0.4 percent to a decline of 0.5 percent, reflecting the uncertainty in the period which saw the build up to and outbreak of war in Iraq, and the spread of the deadly SARS virus in Asia, the destination for some 40 percent of Japan's exports.

The Cabinet Office will release preliminary GDP figures for the January-March quarter of 2003 this morning.

"External demand has been a crucial factor in keeping the economy afloat, but now the US

economy isn't doing so well any more," said Shuji Shiota, economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein.

"SARS is now hitting the Asian regional economy, and the first quarter figures won't reflect this. But in any case the outlook is not very good," added Shiota, who forecast a contraction of 0.3 percent from the previous quarter.

The economy grew 0.5 percent in the October to December period last year, beating expectations mainly on strong exports, particularly to the fast-growing China

market.

Since then war in Iraq and more recently SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), which has hit China especially hard, have slowed demand for Japanese goods, weakening one of the main props of the economy.

Domestically, consumer spending has held up despite poor employment conditions and falling wages, mainly because consumers have dipped into their ample savings to carry on shopping. *Reuters*

Euro weaker as market eyes interest rate cut

TOKYO—The euro fell from four-year peaks against the dollar and yen on Thursday as dealers liquidated long positions, triggered by rising speculation that the European Central Bank might cut interest rates later in the day.

"To put it in simple terms, it's unwinding of long positions," said an interbank dealer at Mizuho Corporate Bank.

The single currency had been rising steadily against a backdrop of steady fund flows into the eurozone amid investors' appetite for higher-yielding assets.

Europe's interest rates—the ECB's benchmark rate is now at 2.50 percent—are higher than the Federal Reserve's federal funds rate at 1.25 percent.

Although the market consensus is still for no rate cut at

the ECB's policy-setting meeting, speculation is rising that the central bank could ease monetary policy to spur economic growth in the region and halt the euro's export-crimping rise.

Dealers said the euro's decline was further induced by falls in sterling amid expectations of a rate cut by the Bank of England, which is also due to meet later in

the day.

A Reuters poll found that 20 out of 32 economists expected the bank to cut rates again three months after it chopped the benchmark rate to a 48-year low of 3.75 percent.

Dollar/yen trading was tentative as the market remained on edge over possible yen-selling intervention by Japanese monetary authorities. *Reuters*

Toyota profit surges

TOKYO—The world's third-largest automaker, Toyota Motor Corp., reported record profits for a third straight year on Thursday, powered by cost cuts, strong US sales and a resurgent euro.

But analysts are expecting a tougher year ahead because of slack global demand and intense competition from Detroit's "Big Three," which are offering big incentives to try to win back market share from Toyota and rival Japanese and European automakers.

Toyota's announcement on Thursday wrapped up the reporting period for Japan's top automakers and confirmed all five extended their profits, mainly by grabbing a bigger share of the US market at the expense of Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp. and Daimler-Chrysler AG.

Toyota, which is the world's most profitable and valuable automaker, said group operating profit for the year to the end of March leapt 21 percent to 1.36 trillion yen (\$11.68 billion) from the 1.123 trillion yen reported in the previous year.

This was below a consensus analyst forecast of 1.44 trillion yen in a survey of 21 brokerages by Reuters Research.

Reflecting the robust results, Toyota raised its dividend payment for the year to 36 yen per share from 28 yen the year before.

Most analysts expect Toyota's profits to keep rising on further cost cuts and brisk sales of new models like the RX330 luxury SUV and Sienna minivan in the US market.

Toyota does not provide forecasts on a group level, but on a parent-only basis it expects recurring profit to fall 25 percent to 670 billion yen this business year. *Reuters*

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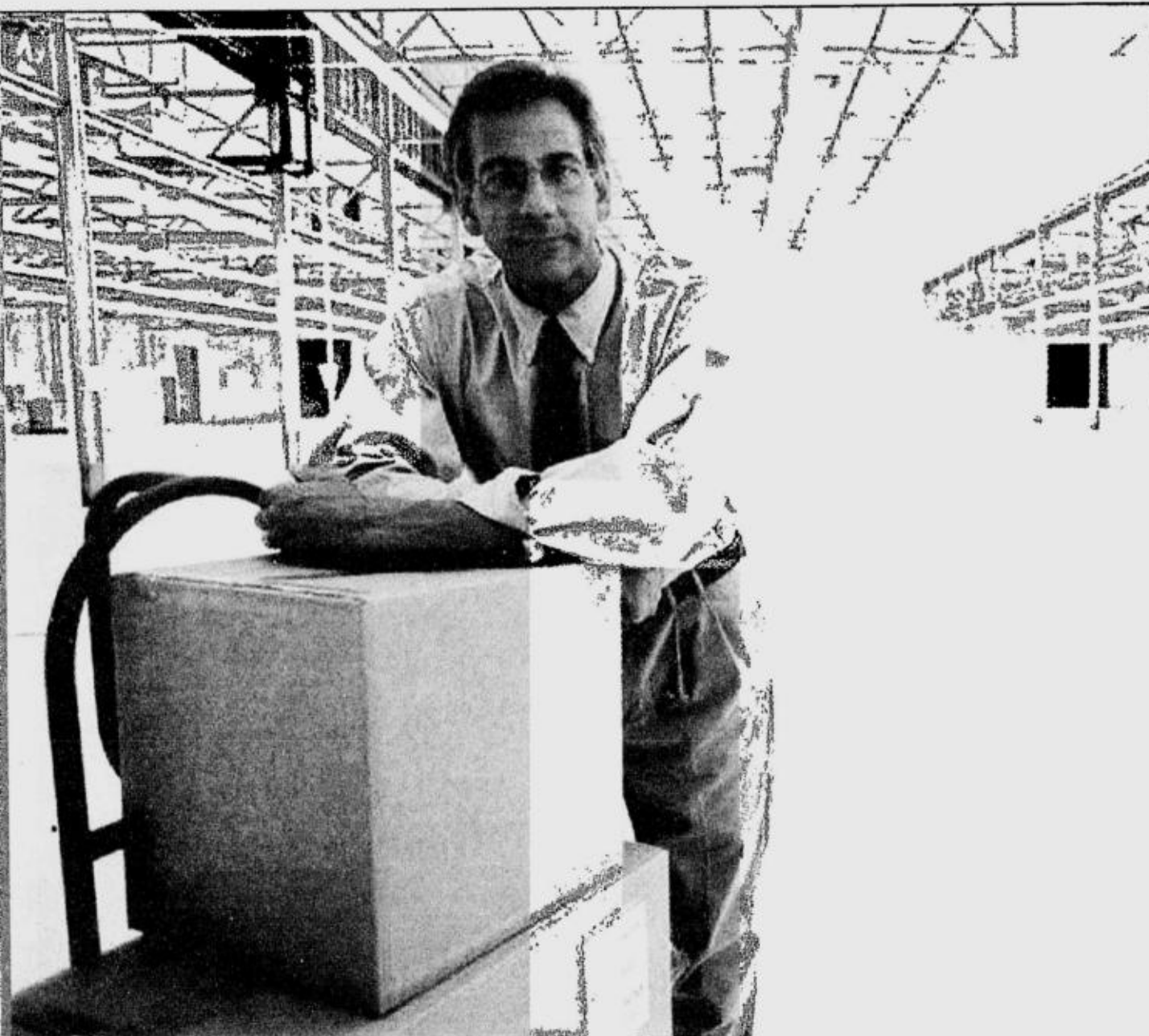
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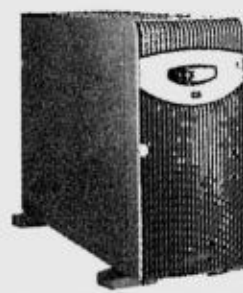
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 NEAR LA SALLE
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FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2003

CLASSIFIEDS

B2

NOTICE

Goodyear Eagle F1 Users On Road Hazard Warranty

- We now have new procedures out for claiming Road Hazard Warranty, including new forms and requirements.
- If you own Goodyear Eagle F1 tyres, please go back to the outlet where you purchased them and fill out a New Registration Form so that you may be qualified to claim warranty if any road hazard damage occurs on your tyres. Just present a COPY OF INVOICE and the Old Road Hazard Claim Card, only if a claim card was given to you.
- If you have not registered with your outlet, and a road hazard damage occurred on your tyre, you may claim Road Hazard Warranty using the Old Road Hazard Claim Card but only until October 31, 2003. If you don't have the Road Hazard Claim Card, you may still claim Road Hazard Warranty but only until July 31, 2003. Both instances require you to present a COPY OF INVOICE.
- So we urge you to go back to your tyre outlet to register for the New Road Hazard Warranty. For inquiries and concerns, please call the Goodyear Customer Service Hotline at 850-9999 loc. 101 to 105.

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PNPC COMPLEX, MERRITT ROAD, FORT BONIFACIO, MAKATI CITY
Tel. No. 893-1320 loc. 5285

INVITATION FOR BIDS

- PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) has received an ODA loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as JBIC), in the amount of 14,450,000,000 Yen towards the cost of the No. Negros Geothermal Power Project and intends to apply the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the SUPPLY AND DELIVERY of:
34,750 bags Class "G" Cement under FGK-30804
Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans." No party other than PNOC-EDC shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, PNOC-EDC will take appropriate measures for finance.
- JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as PNOC-EDC, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:
a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded by JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practice in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
- PNOC-EDC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries for the supply of the Goods for the purpose of the Project.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Purchasing Division c/o Mr. Raffy S. Toyian, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, PNPC Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Tel. No. (632) 893-1320 Loc. 5285, Fax No. (632) 840-1634.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be secured by any interested eligible bidder starting April 30, 2003, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of one hundred pesos (P100.00) Philippine Currency for each set of tender documents.
- For purposes of clarifying matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on May 14, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the above address.
- The estimated date of award is on July 15, 2003.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount indicated in the tender documents, and in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC. The bids must be delivered to the above address on or before 2:00 p.m. of June 11, 2003. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.
- PNOC-EDC will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connections with the preparation or delivery of bids.
- PNOC-EDC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for PNOC-EDC's action.

(PDI-May 9, 2003)

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC) is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply of Records Management System for the Commission. Those who were previously registered need not register.

Registration requirements could be secured from Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod, Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning 12 May 2003 to be submitted not later than 23 May 2003, 5:00 P.M., through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from May 29 to 30, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Pre-bid Conference will be on June 13, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on July 30, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. and 30 July 2003 at 2:15 P.M., respectively. Bidders shall submit five (5) separate sealed envelopes; one (1) envelope containing the eligibility requirements, two (2) envelopes containing the technical component of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and two (2) envelopes containing the financial component of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with "Executive Order 40".

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO V. CABARIOS
Chairman, BAC

(PDI-May 9 & 16, 2003)

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Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-6101 to 07

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

HIRING OF RESEARCH EXPERTS/GROUP FOR THE IMPACT
STUDY ON LOCALIZATION FOR CIDSS
CONSULTING SERVICES
IFB No. GOP/03-DSWD-003

The Department of Social Welfare and Development now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services such as the following:

- Consultants must have an extensive experience/capability in research and evaluation of social development programs/projects research which may be measured not so much in the number of years as a research organization but more on the kind/quality research projects undertaken.
- Has a core of trained and competent professionals familiar with social development programs of the government.
- Specific skills in conducting participatory research would be an advantage. The research study would require certain experience, skills, knowledge/familiarity and qualifications in conducting research studies along the social welfare and development arena, social science, community development and other related fields.

Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below.

Expressions of Interest and Eligibility Requirements must be delivered to the address below by May 21, 2003.

(Sgd.) RHODA F. YAP
Assistant Secretary and
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee-I
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills,
Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9318161
Fax No. (632) 9316146
(PDI-May 9 & 16, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



BETTY M. MALABANAN

This is to inform the public that **MS. BETTY MUSNI MALABANAN** of No. 124 Darwin Street, Greenpark Village, Pasig City, whose picture appears herein is no longer connected with **NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.** since **March 30, 2003**. Any transaction made or which she may, hereafter, undertake in behalf of **NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.** shall not be honored by the company.

(PDI - May 9, 2003)

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KALAW : **528-0213, 527-3342**

MEGAMALL : **635-0219, 635-0220**



*"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no
harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff
give me courage." Psalms 23:4*

DELFIN "Del" ALMEDA Y CARRASCO

*Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 07, 2003 at the age of 50.*

Delfin's bereaved wife Aurea (Baby); and children Delfin Patrick Jr. (DJ), Nina Carmela (Carla), Dindo Niccolo (†) and Angelo Martin; Parents Lamberto and Dalila; Parents-in-law Conrado (†) and Dominga (†); brothers, sisters and their spouses, Danny and Baby, Natoy and Marrise, Susan and Ven Aduana, Jun and Tina, Lulu and Tony Santiago, Tere and Jojo Yap, Nani and Dayding; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 1:00 P.M. Mass.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39



The Board of Directors, Management and Staff
of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation
condole with the family of

ROLANDO V. CRUZ

24 October 1937 - 6 May 2003

Former Senior Vice President and Assistant General Manager, ABS-CBN
and Managing Director, ABS-CBN Sports

In loving memory of his significant contributions
to the broadcast industry
and his invaluable service to ABS-CBN.

His remains lie in state at the
SANCTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, Forbes Park, Makati City
and will be brought to the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, Pasig City
at 11:00 AM of Sunday, 11 May.

The NECROLOGICAL MASS at the Immaculate Conception Parish
is scheduled at 1:00 PM.

Interment follows at the Pasig Cemetery.

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Mandaluyog, Bacolod City. Tel. 433-7132

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City. Tels. 831-1204; Sucat
Branch: 8167 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Paranaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City.
Tel. Nos. 843-8839/30, Fax No. 843-9223

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyog City. Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City. Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284

ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3579, 781-1772

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
266 Quezon Ave., Quezon City. Tels. 372-5084, 410-9266/87

UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Tels. 493-4458, 493-4540

VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NSI Mortgage 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City. Tels.
831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1801, 845-4836

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER MESSAGEBOARD

Mother's Day Treat

Warm your mom's heart with your deeply felt love
note telling her how special she is to you.

On May 11, Mother's Day, **INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS**,
the widest reaching classifieds, will highlight a
"Mother's day special section" for personal ads
dedicated to the first woman in all our lives.

Take advantage of this offer
and this will surely be one of
the BEST gifts your mom will
ever receive and cherish. For
more info, you may visit or
call any Inquirer branch:

Mom Junie,
You're the best!

JM & Hanna
2 col x 3 cm - P 100

Nanay Karen,
Thanks for all
you do.

Mico, Nicole,
Gabby AJ & Christian

2 col x 3 cm - P 250

Nanay Margie,
There's never
been a minute I
wasn't glad you
were my mom.

Lullie Boy

2 col x 3 cm - P 200

Mama Rita,
Thank you for always
being there, Mama.
Happy Mother's Day!

Kobe & Niki

2 col x 3 cm - P 500

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INQUIRER

Kasalang Filipino Wedding Supplement

A National Bridal Fair Road Show

The first ever national
bridal fair road show
featuring the best
of Philippine wedding
essentials and services.

On June 1, 2003,
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classifieds presents the
Kasalang Filipino
Supplement - a wedding
special featuring helpful
wedding planning articles
and listings of the best
wedding products and
services in the country.

Advertisers who wish to
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Deadline of materials
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Please send all
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☐ 1/4 Page (height: 15 cm, width: 11.5 cm.) PhP 13,500.00
☐ 1/8 Page (height: 7.5 cm, width: 11.5 cm.) PhP 6,750.00

* Note: EARLY BIRD SPECIAL - Less 10% to road show
participants or to those who sign up on or before
May 15, 2003. For payments, please make all checks
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☐ Supplier Listing (5 cm. X 3 cm.) PhP 1,800.00
(will contain Name of Company, Contact Person,
Address, and Contact Information.
Should you wish to include logo/photo,
just avail ☐ additional 5 cm. X 3 cm. space).

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If you would like to be part of the Kasalang Filipino
Supplement on June 1, 2003, kindly check which
of the above rates you are interested in, fill out
this form and fax it to Kasal.com at (632) 414-3596.

Company Name: _____
Contact Person: _____
Tel. No.: _____
Fax No.: _____
Address: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Website: _____



The Board of Directors, Management and Staff
of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation
condole with the family of

ROLANDO V. CRUZ

24 October 1937 - 6 May 2003

Former Senior Vice President and Assistant General Manager, ABS-CBN
and Managing Director, ABS-CBN Sports

In loving memory of his significant contributions
to the broadcast industry
and his invaluable service to ABS-CBN.

His remains lie in state at the
SANCTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, Forbes Park, Makati City
and will be brought to the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, Pasig City
at 11:00 AM of Sunday, 11 May.

The NECROLOGICAL MASS at the Immaculate Conception Parish
is scheduled at 1:00 PM.

Interment follows at the Pasig Cemetery.

**For the needs of your
departed Loved Ones,
the following
establishments can
help you.**

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Cebu Branch: A S Fortuna Street, Bantad, Mandaue City.
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885 J P Rizal St., Pasig City. Tels: 890-1556, 899-8191

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Take advantage of this offer
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the BEST gifts your mom will
ever receive and cherish. For
more info, you may visit or
call any Inquirer branch.

Mom Junie,
You're the best!



JM & Hamma

2 col x 3 cm = P 100

Mama Rita,

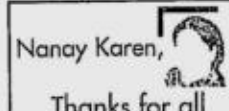


Thank you for always
being there, Mama.
Happy Mother's Day!

Kobe & Niki

2 col x 3 cm = P 500

Nancy Karen,



Thanks for all
you do.

Mico, Nicole,
Gabby AJ & Christian

2 col x 3 cm = P 250

Nanay Margie,



There's never
been a minute I
wasn't glad you
were my mom.

Lulli Boy

2 col x 3 cm = P 500

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Kasalang Filipino Wedding Supplement

A National Bridal Fair Road Show

The first ever national
bridal fair road show
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of Philippine wedding
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Wedding Supplement" - a wedding
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Deadline of materials
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Please send all
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* Note: **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL** - Less 10% to road show
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May 15, 2003. For payments, please make all checks
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☐ Supplier Listing (5 cm. X 3 cm.) PhP 1,600.00
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Should you wish to include logo/photo,
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payable to Web Philippines, Inc.

If you would like to be part of the Kasalang Filipino
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Address: _____
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 ☎ 912-9008-11 ☎ 912-9011
 SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
 ☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 ☎ 6350220
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 ☎ 5271342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 ☎ 5280213
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 for reservations / cancellations / corrections
 Monday to Sunday
 12:00 noon
 Day before publication

Eugenia Ciubal Deen

(January 19, 1909 - May 4, 2003)
 of Baguio and Narvacan, Ilocos Sur
 Widow of the late Joseph T. Deen of LEBANON
 Peacefully joined our Lord on 4 May 2003 at the age of 94.
 Her memory will always be treasured by -

DAUGHTERS:

SALIMA DEEN RILLERA

Widow of the late Col. (Ret.) ALFEO F. RILLERA SR.

CHILDREN:

Arch. Alfeo D. Rillera Jr. & wife Jacqueline Maraguinot

KIDS: Bianca & Bettina

Dr. Joseph D. Rillera & wife Dr. Cristina E. Belen

KIDS: Joshua & Nina Frances

LYDIA DEEN WALTERS of Florida, U.S.A.

CHILDREN:

Phyllis Dean

Velvet Walters

Robert Hines

Interment will be at the North Cemetery beside her late husband
 Joseph T. Deen to be announced later.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Dra. Pacita Pronove Irreverre

express our heartfelt gratitude to those who condoled with
 us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, cards and
 messages of sympathy, gave donations, visited and kept
 vigil, attended the funeral rites and memorial services,
 and who in countless ways helped and comforted us
 during our moments of bereavement.

*I am the way, the truth and
 the life. No one comes to
 the Father except through
 Me.*

John 14:6

ATTY. JAIME R. BLANCO

*Peacefully joined our Lord on May 8, 2003
 at the age of 77.*

His wife **PURITA MENDOZA** (†); children **MANNY & FANNY, CHITO, MITO & NOELLE, TESSA, JAYME & MON-MON**; grandchildren **APRIL & LEONARD DE GUZMAN, CHIPPY, MICKEY, CARLO & MIG**; sister & brothers **GLORIA** (†), **BENITO** (†), **GUIMO & INDAY**; nephew **DINDO & AVE**, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City from 1:00 p.m., Friday, May 9, 2003.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 11, 2003 at the family mausoleum at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque, after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio.

SYMPATHY

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

During our time of sorrow

We learn how much our

Relatives and friends mean to us

All your kindness and sympathy

Will always be remembered

By the family of

LILIA SANTOS VILLA

24 January 1925 - 26 April 2003

MA. CELINA "CHING" LAICO DAVID

of Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City
 Born December 3, 1937

Peacefully joined her Creator on May 7, 2003.

Her husband **Vic David** and her children **Arthur & Grace, Michael, Rey & Jovits, Gina, Paul & Joy, Sarah** and **Ed**; her grandchildren **Lizzie, Nicole & Joshua**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Gabriel Hall, OLMHP, Bougainville Road, Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City. Masses will be held every night at 8:00 p.m. from Wednesday to Saturday (May 7 to 10, 2003).

Last Mass will be on Sunday, May 11, 2003, 9:00 a.m. at St. Gabriel Chapel, Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City. Interment will follow after the Mass.

A loving Mother, Educator, Author and Friend

Remedios Maglaque Cayari

peacefully joined her Creator and her beloved husband
 PAF Col. Josias M. Cayari on May 7, 2003 at the age of 83.



Her memory shall always be cherished by her son, Renato (Bong) and wife Socorro P. Alberto (Chocs), daughter Cynthia (Ching), grandchildren, and sisters Lourdes M. Valdez and Josefa L. Maglaque.

Relatives and friends are requested to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will lie in state at Chapel 1 of St. Alphonsus De Liguori Church, Magallanes Village Makati from May 8 to midnight of May 10 (Saturday). Cremation will follow at the Loyola Crematorium in Marikina.

DEATH NOTICES

EVANGELINA G. SAMONTE

Joined his Creator on May 4, 2003
 at the age of 81.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Aranceta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment tomorrow, May 10, 2003 at Bocaue Catholic Cemetery.

MENELEO R. CRUZADO

Joined his Creator on May 6, 2003
 at the age of 32.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Aranceta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 11, 2003.

RUTH A. REFRAN

Joined his Creator on May 6, 2003
 at the age of 62.

Her remains lie in state at Samson Funeral Homes, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be announced later.

YU BUN GUAN JIMMY YOUNG

Joined his Creator on May 3, 2003
 at the age of 69.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Aranceta Avenue, Quezon City.

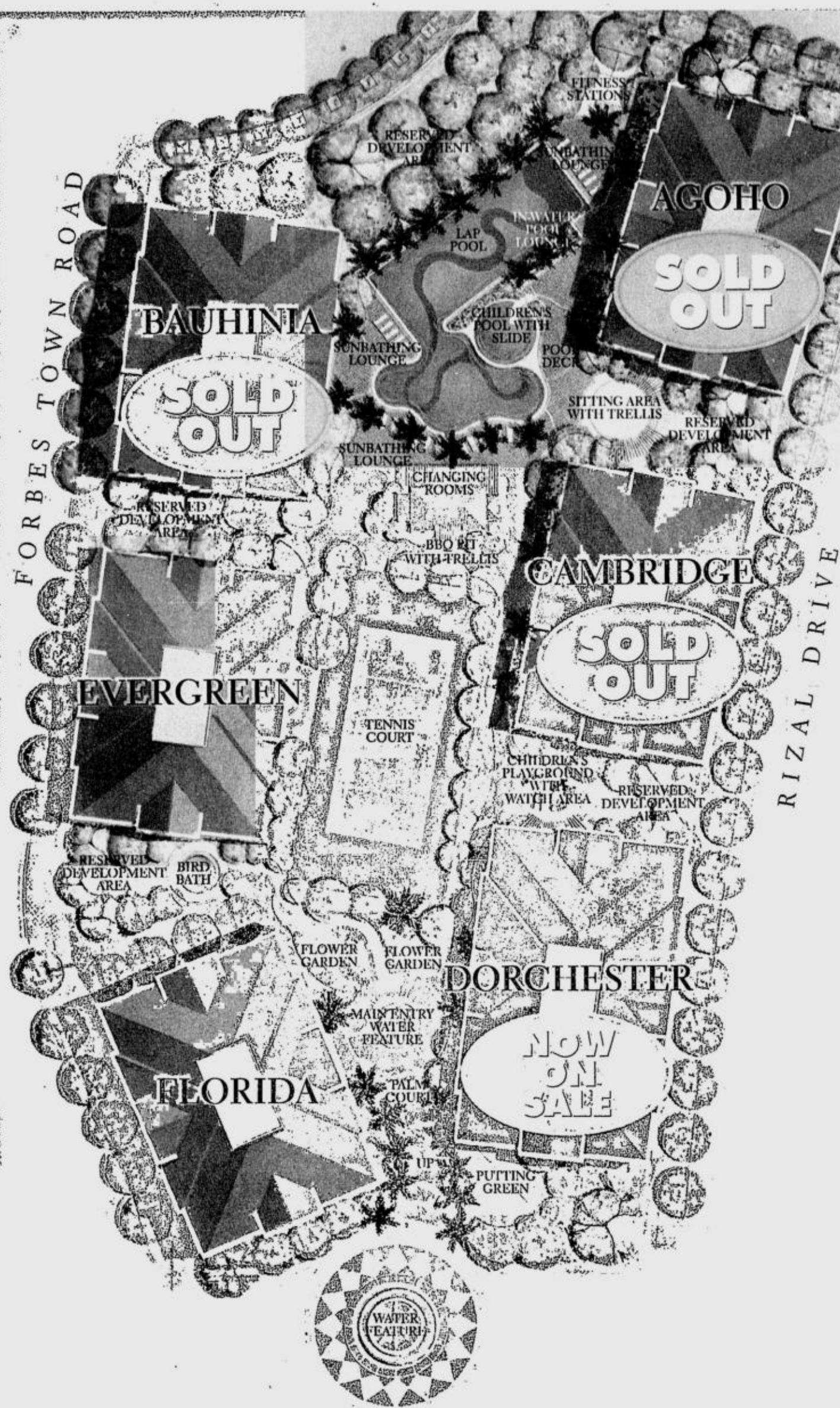
Interment will be on Sunday, May 11, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"An
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 picture can
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 tribute to
 your
 departed
 loved one."

2 Corinthians 5:8

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only
 begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him
 shall not perish but have everlasting life."*

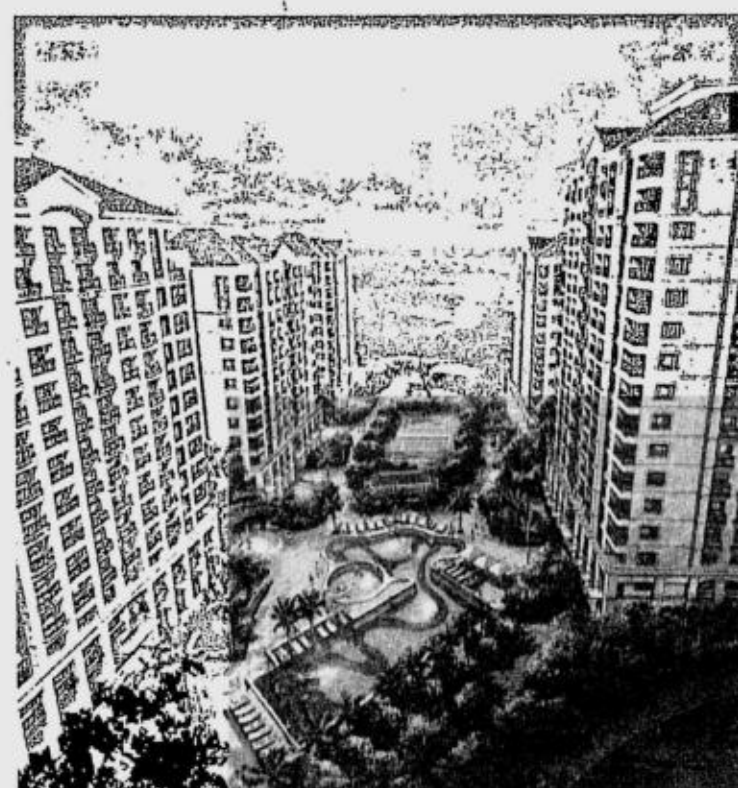
John 3:16



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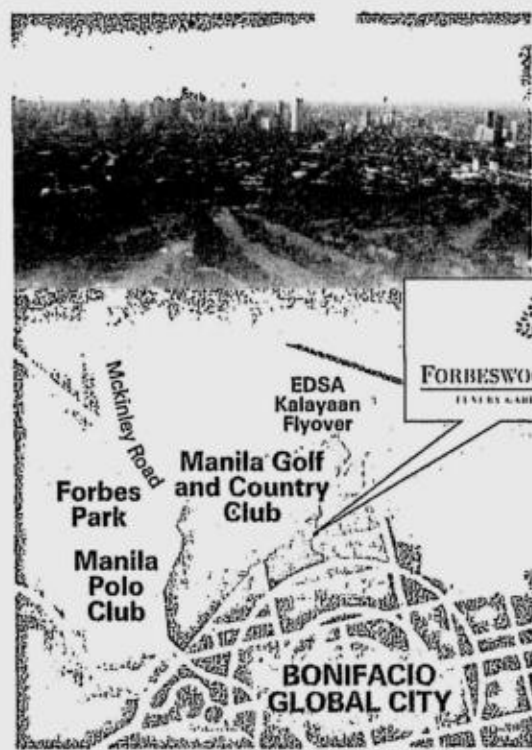
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BUSINESSFriday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

B2-1

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How do Pinoys shoplift? Let us count the ways

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FILIPINOS are said to be very creative people.

The fact that many of the top hotels in Asia have Filipino singers as their main attraction is one proof. Their expertise in dance and art is another.

Unfortunately, some Filipinos have extended their creative streak to include coming up with new ways to get a few items out of the store without paying for them.

One leading bookstore chain in the Philippines cited one case where one shoplifter was able to get away with a fax machine, and they even wrapped the package in fancy paper for him.

A clothing store, on the other hand, complained about many customers who would come in wearing loose pants, a shirt and a jacket.

They would fit at least two items of clothing and in a few minutes, they would come out of the store wearing the same clothes but with a brand new pair of pants and shirt underneath.

These are just some of the shoplifting incidents that Philippine retailers are faced with, especially these days when the purchasing power of the peso has gone down due to the currency's depreciation against the US dollar.

Since last year, the Philippine Retailers Association and police authorities have stepped up their security consciousness campaign among the member retailers but criminal elements have also adapted to the times.

They have come up with

more ingenious ways of getting prized items out of the country's retail outlets.

Impossible to eradicate

Internal and external pilferage are problems that retailers inevitably face. It is next to impossible to totally eradicate the problem. What retailers are left to do is to just try to keep the losses from pilferage down to a minimum.

The INQUIRER recently sat down with some retailers that have come up with a battle plan to keep inventory losses down to manageable levels.

These firms have realized that in today's competitive market, the loss of even just one item will have an effect on the bottom line.

TrueValue

Prevailing economic difficulties have led to an unusual increase in the number of shoplifting incidents.

This has been the experience of the Philippine operations of American home store network TrueValue.

TrueValue's Joey Estrera says in an interview that branches that had no history of pilferage are now being hit by syndicates.

"I believe that it is because these are really hard times so we are now more prone to pilferage," he says.

It is because of these incidents that TrueValue invested in closed circuit televisions to beef up the security measures without necessarily hiring more people to do the job.

"We have to balance our

HOW/B2-2

Understanding the world's most influential consumer

By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

THE LAST two decades have witnessed the surge in the number of women who have joined the workforce. At the turn of the century, only 20 percent of all women worldwide were gainfully employed.

By the 1990s, the number had risen to nearly 50 percent.

In the Philippines, 51.8 percent of women 15 years old and above joined the labor force in 2001. Worldwide, women opt to start working with pink collar clerical work and eventually move on to more intellectually challenging jobs with sufficient work experience.

Today, it is not uncommon for women to occupy managerial positions, hold board seats and head blue-chip companies in various industries.

These changes in the kind and quality of work of career women and the spending power that comes with the position raises the net worth of women and makes them today the world's most influential consumer. Like it or not, women make the buying decisions or influence the purchase of not less than two-thirds of all consumer goods and services.

As this new demographic segment gains strength and recognition, it is important to understand some of the insights that drive women's buying behavior and purchase decisions based on a number of consumer research and empirical studies made about the women market. Some of these insights include:

One, women are brand loyal. When satisfied with a brand, they will use the same products and services they use at the workplace for their own homes.

Two, women are a great advocate channel. Women make ten times more referrals than men do. This is borne out of a natural habit among women to freely dispense helpful information, advice or directions.

Three, women need to connect and establish a relationship with the brand. Women are naturally caring and nurturing—qualities that drive relationships. Women seek the



same quality of relationship with brands. Brands that anticipate their needs, understand their aspirations, provide a link or connectivity to the company or service provider by establishing a dialogue through consumer feedback are likely to enjoy greater acceptance.

Four, women need to connect with other women. Dr. John Gray, author of the widely received book, "Men are from Mars, women are from Venus," stated, "men retreat to their caves when solving problems while women get together and talk openly." Women naturally gravitate to groups and communities. Marketing activities that bring women together under a substantial cause can help drive loyalty for a brand.

Five, trust and reputation is key in the women market. Faith Popcorn, consumer trend forecaster and author of "Eveolution," maintains that a brand with integrity is likely to gain acceptance in the women market.

Six, women use the Net. Contrary to initial speculations, women are very comfortable with the Internet. Skill-wise, most women have been trained to type. Connectivity-wise, the Internet provides limitless opportunities to cyber-talk with family, friends and relatives as well as seek product and service information from countless websites.

A survey conducted by Jupiter Communications and Media Matrix shows that women and men use the Internet in dramatically different ways. Women go online for more practical reasons that include shopping or seeking specific information. Men tend to wander in cyberspace, often looking for nothing more than amusement. Likewise, women tend to be more loyal to a fewer number of websites.

Women seek a more efficient experience in the Net—they log in, do the business and log off. Check out your girl Friday. In all likelihood, she accesses the Net far more than the telephone directory for information.

Seven, women like detail. When it comes to a purchasing decision, women source a lot of information including feedback from family and friends. This is where brand recognition, reputation and marketing connectivity efforts become important.

Eight, relate to a woman's life goal. In this respect, most men and women are different. While men generally focus on a numerical amount as a goal like earning the first million by age 30 years old, women are likely to plan their finances and spending based on "improvement of life" goals that include complete

UNDERSTANDING/B2-3

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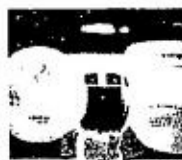
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Playboy's new editor reshapes ageing bunny

NEW YORK—Attention men! Prefer journalism to wacky story blurbs? Cool martinis to frothy beer? Nearly naked female celebs to fully naked unknowns? Playboy's new editor James Kaminsky says he has a magazine for you.

After months of nips and tucks to stop the signs of ageing at the 50-year-old publication, founded by sexual revolution icon Hugh Hefner, Playboy is fresh from its makeover.

Kaminsky, 42, told Reuters he is ready to showcase a magazine that is similar in substance but different in style—and put some of the clothes back on.

With a new editorial staff, Kaminsky and Playboy magazine are set to recapture the throne that Hefner, now 77, refuses to abdicate.

The magazine lost ground on news stands with the arrival in the late '90s of so-called "lad mags" like Maxim, Stuff and FHM.

The new formula? More photos teamed with still strong journalism, more lifestyle, leisure and fashion and more pictorials of celebrities with perhaps a bit more clothes.

"My goal is to take this great editorial package that has worked for 50 years and move it forward for a new generation, without losing the things that have worked so well to date," Kaminsky said in an interview.

Playboy was founded in 1953 by then 27-year-old Hefner. By combining pictures of beautiful women—Marilyn Monroe was the first nude centerfold—with literary and journalistic pieces Hefner, or just plain "Hef," made Playboy a household name.

The magazine now has a US circulation of 3.2 million, still the largest in its category, but about half of what it had during its heyday.

With Maxim, FHM and Stuff crowding the news stands and the industry facing the worst advertising slump in recent history, Playboy's news stand sales suffered and its glossy reputation dulled.

Nip here, tuck there

For the first time in 2002, Playboy Enterprises' TV, movie and video revenue eclipsed publishing, which was hurt by lower magazine sales.

Kaminsky was lured from Maxim in September to replace Arthur Kretschmer, Playboy's editorial boss for nearly four decades.

But how do you change the magazine without it appearing like it's in mid-life crisis?

"We need to add new people on the news stand ... by making the magazine more visual, making it livelier and relevant," Kaminsky said.

"It's an evolution, not a revolution. I don't want to lose those 2.8 million" subscribers to the magazine.

But grabbing the attention in times when generous flesh display is common on supermarket and book store magazine racks may be tough.

Playboy's pictorials with well-known movie and TV stars in the buff have always



been among their best selling issues, but getting A-list actresses, singers and models to appear totally nude has been difficult.

Kaminsky has brought in Heidi Parker, formerly an editor for Movie Line magazine, as the magazine's West Coast editor in a move to add more names to the bow-tied bunny's little black book.

Parker "is lining up big celebrities," Kaminsky said. "We haven't been as aggressive in that arena as we might have been over the last four or five years. Now is time for us to take our prisoners and to introduce all Hollywood to this magazine."

In pictorials, Playboy may allow more clothes—"but in a very sexy way," Kaminsky said—if doing so guarantees having a well-known personality on its pages. Nudity "is something we embrace," he said. "But there are different levels of nudity."

When in Rome...

To widen appeal, Playboy is also spicing up the ethnic mix of its models. Playmate of the Year Christina Santiago, featured in the June issue and who has Puerto Rican background, is the first Hispanic to notch the coveted title.

"It is a very diverse world, the concept of beauty constantly changes and that needed to be more represented in the magazine," Kaminsky said.

Kaminsky said Playboy will remain true to the editorial content that has lured famed writers, actors and sportsmen to its pages and won't downsize to the bits-and-blurb format that has worked so well for its competitors.

"There's a theory in the air that guys 18 to 34 won't read big stories, don't read ambitious pieces and they want pieces broken up," he said. "But we are not Maxim, we don't want to be. We are not self-deprecating, drunk guys at a frat party. Our tone is smarter, sexier."

However, Playboy is adding more humor to the magazine along with new sections, like a video-game review and more solid fashion coverage to remain relevant and attract advertisers.

Reuters

By Feliza A. Peralta
SGV & Co

WHAT income tax applies to royalties that are received by domestic corporations from Philippine sources? Are they subject to a 20-percent final income tax or are they subject to the regular income tax rate of 32 percent?

Based on recent BIR rulings, the answer to this question will depend on whether the royalties are considered passive or active income of the recipient.

What are royalties?

Royalties, as defined in Federico Moreno's Philippine Law Dictionary, refer to a duty or compensation paid to the owner of a patent or copyright for its use, or a share of the product or profit reserved by the owner for permitting another to use the property.

Section 42(A)(4) of the Tax Code treats as gross income from sources within the Philippines, rentals and royalties from property located in the Philippines or from any interest in such property, including rentals or royalties for:

(a) The use of or the right or privilege to use in the Philippines any copyright, patent, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, goodwill, trademark, trade brand or other like property or right;

(b) The use of, or the right to use in the Philippines any industrial, commercial or scientific equipment;

(c) The supply of scientific, technical, industrial or commercial knowledge or information;

(d) The supply of any assistance that is ancillary and subsidiary to, and is furnished as a means of enabling the application or enjoyment of, any such property or right as is mentioned in paragraph (a), any such equipment as is mentioned in paragraph (b) or any such knowledge or information as is mentioned in paragraph (c);

(e) The supply of services by a non-resident person or his employee in connection with the use of property or rights belonging to, or the installation or operation of any brand, machinery or other apparatus purchased from such nonresident person;

(f) Technical advice, assistance or services rendered in connection with technical management or administration of any scientific, industrial or commercial undertaking, venture, project or scheme; and

(g) The use of or the right to use: (i) Motion picture films; (ii) Films or video tapes for use in connection with television; and; (iii) Tapes for use in connection with radio broadcasting.

What income may qualify

There have been conflicting pronouncements by the tax authorities on what income may qualify as royalties. Some rulings provide that to be considered as royalties, there must be a transfer of technology, equipment or other property, where the payee has proprietary interest. The absence of such transfer of technology or property where the payee has proprietary interest will ren-

der the payments as service fees. On the other hand, there have also been pronouncements where the transfer of technology was disregarded and the Tax Code enumeration above was used.

In any case, this article does not intend to discuss the definition of royalties further. It is enough that you are made aware that there is an issue on what the tax authorities consider as royalties and as service fees.

TAX-FILES

Tax rate on royalty income

The rate of income tax that applies to royalty income of a domestic corporation from Philippine sources is found in Section 27(D)(1) of the Tax Code:

Rates of tax on certain passive incomes. xxx A final tax at the rate of 20 percent is hereby imposed upon the amount of interest on currency bank deposit and yield or any other monetary benefit from deposit substitutes and from trust funds and similar arrangements received by domestic corporations, and royalties, derived from sources within the Philippines xxx"

Does the 20-percent final income tax apply to all royalties?

The heading of the quoted provision of the Tax Code requires the royalty to be in the nature of passive income to be subject to the 20-percent final income tax.

In BIR Ruling No. 57-2000 dated Nov. 7, 2000, the BIR confirmed this requirement. In this ruling, Company ABC-Phils was a domestic company primarily engaged in the licensing, implementation and maintenance of computer software in the domestic and foreign markets. It was licensed by a company in the United Kingdom (UK Co) to distribute, support and use in the Philippines, licensed systems, owned by UK Co, consisting of computer software for banks, including basic and related materials and incidental services. ABC-Phils will not acquire any proprietary rights of whatever kind in or over the licensed systems except to distribute, support and use the same within the Philippines. ABC-Phils pays royalties to UK Co. As its principal and main activity, ABC-Phils distributes the licensed systems by entering into licensing agreements as well as consultancy, supplementary license and services agreement with its Philippine clients. The licensing agreements grant Philippine clients, the non-exclusive right to use the licensed system or a modified form of the system for internal business purposes only. The services agreement, on the other hand, provides for technical services to be performed by ABC-Phils personnel to its Philippine clients in support of the licensed system. ABC-Phils receives fees in consideration for the rights granted and the support services.

The BIR ruled that to be subject to the 20-percent final withholding tax, the royalties must be in the nature of passive income. Since the income derived by ABC-Phils from the distribution of the Licensed Computer Systems to its Philippine clients and the performance of support services is income generated in the active pursuit and performance of its primary purpose, the same is clearly NOT passive income subject to the 20-percent final tax. Such

being the case, the payments received by ABC-Phils from the active conduct of trade or business are considered ordinary business income subject to the 33 percent (now 32) regular corporate income tax.

In the more recent BIR Ruling DA-187-2002 dated Oct. 16, 2002, Company XYZ, a domestic company was primarily engaged in sublicensing to third parties, the use of copyrights relating to Disney characters and materials in various promotion and merchandising activities. It also provides advertising, promotions and other services to sublicensees to enhance the value of the licensed materials. It was licensed by Disney Enterprises, a US resident, to sublicense, support, promote and protect Disney characters and trademarks owned by the US company. XYZ will not acquire any proprietary rights over the Disney characters except to distribute, support and use them in the Philippines. XYZ pays royalties to the US company. XYZ sublicenses to third parties the right to use Disney trademarks and characters by entering into license agreements. These license agreements also grant clients the non-exclusive right to use Disney trademarks and characters in a number of merchandising activities. In addition, XYZ provides assistance in consumer awareness of the Walt Disney trademarks/characters through various marketing activities such as design support services, advertising, and customer promotions, among others.

The BIR ruled that the royalties and other fees received by XYZ are in the nature of active income, arising from the active pursuit of its business expense, because its activities are in accordance with its primary purpose. As provided under its Articles of Incorporation, one of its primary purposes is the sublicensing of licensed materials to its Philippine clients and the performance of support services. Accordingly, the fees it receives are active income subject to 32 percent regular corporate income tax, instead of the 20 percent final income tax.

Final income tax not automatic

From the foregoing rulings, we can see that royalty income will not automatically be subject to a 20 percent final income tax. If the royalty is derived from the active pursuit of the primary purpose of the business, then that royalty could be subject to the regular corporate income tax of 32 percent.

Does this mean then that the taxpayer is worse off? Not necessarily.

Note that the 20-percent final income tax would have been based on the gross amount of the royalties, that is, without any expense deductions. On the other hand, the 32 percent regular corporate income tax is based on taxable income, that is, gross income minus allowable deductions. In the latter case, if the taxpayer has significant business expenses, it could end up paying less tax by being subject to the 32-percent regular corporate income tax.

Hence, domestic corporations receiving royalties should determine whether these are active or passive income. This determination would then dictate the tax rate and tax base that would apply.

How do Pinoys shoplift? Let us count the ways

From page B2-1

manpower requirements because we are trying to compete. We have to keep our costs down so we are working with our lean staff," he explains.

But more than the technology, Estrera says that it also pays to provide training to the employees to make them more conscious of the possible syndicates or unscrupulous criminal elements within the store.

"We tell them that they should always keep an eye out for people who shop alone. We also discourage people from bringing in packages so we ask them to leave their packages at the counter," Estrera says.

Combined with the roving security personnel and visits from security experts, Estrera says these measures allowed TrueValue to keep inventory losses to a minimum, equivalent to less than one percent of total sales.

This is despite the fact that the store sells a lot of small items that could be easily slipped into bags or pockets and the absence of an alarm system.

The low level of losses, however, does not make TrueValue complacent, saying that the rising incidence of shoplifting is truly a cause for concern.

For internal pilferage controls, Estrera says controls start with the hiring of personnel.

They go through rigorous drug and psychological tests before they are hired. There are also body checks whenever employees go in and out of the store as a deterrent to pilferage.

"We did not use to be so



SHANGRI-LA Plaza helps tenants keep pilferage at bay by training staff to be vigilant

alarmed but there is temptation and there are a lot of ways to get items, that is why we have to be careful," Estrera says.

Shangri-la Plaza

With such big-name tenants such as Marks and Spencer, Liz Claiborne, Lacoste, Escada and Anne Klein under its wing, mall efforts to help prevent pilferage becomes that much more important.

Shangri-la Plaza, one of the country's leading malls, however, has been able to keep pilferage in its tenants' stores to a level lower than those in similar malls in Metro Manila due to the emphasis placed on security.

One of its main weapons is a closed circuit television system that is placed in areas known to be susceptible to shoplifting.

"We also collaborate closely with the roving guards of the mall and CCTV operators to maximize patrolling and coverage of areas within and outside the mall," says Col. Felipe H. Buena Jr., head of security of Shangri-la.

He adds that it is part of the mall's policy to orient the tenants and their employees on loss prevention to enhance their awareness of the latest modus operandi of criminal elements.

"We have also utilized maintenance personnel, elevator attendants and customer relation staff as added security force to monitor and report suspicious persons inside the mall," he says.

Shangri-la stresses that vigilance, more than having the most sophisticated security systems, is the most effective means of pre-

venting criminal elements from having their way in the outlets.

"We emphasize guard visibility and alertness as the primary deterrent against crime," he concludes.

Music One

Enter any Music One or Tower Records outlet and you could not help but be tempted to swipe the latest compact disc of your favorite artist.

But try to do that and the alarm would go off when you try to go out the door because of its much vaunted security system.

Music One group vice president Vince Parr says in an interview that the group got the Checkpoint brand of magnetic controls, which is triggered when a product is passed through the gates before being deactivated at the cashier.

All of the compact discs and products on display in the Music One and Tower Records outlets have a magnetic control that is removed once the product is paid for.

Failure to do so will set off the door alarm and security personnel stationed at each exit questions the customer when the alarm is set off.

When asked if the incidence of pilferage has gone up, Parr says that the number shoplifting cases has been the same regardless of the economic situation.

"When a new store opens, it usually has a higher incidence of shoplifting until the thieves realize that we have an effective system," Parr says.

With its system in place, Parr says that shrinkage or inventory losses in the local Tower Records and Music One operations is below the 5 percent level, which is common in other territories.

"We are proud of the fact that in the Philippines our shrinkage is much, much lower. Although a

retailer can never get complacent about theft, we have managed to predict and work around the shrinkage in our chain," Parr explains.

The security system, however, can only go so far or can be ineffective if not combined with vigilance and service.

Parr emphasizes this point to the staff.

"The best form of security does not come from cameras or gates, or even from security guards. The best security comes from good customer service. It also helps to keep our staff vigilant and highly visible," he says.

On internal theft, Parr admits that it is a concern.

"Any security company will tell you that pilferage also comes from inside the company. We have had incidents of internal theft but we make it very clear to our employees that we follow a principle of mandatory prosecution for anyone caught stealing. This acts as a deterrent for most thieves," he says.



MUSIC One's magnetic control system helps deter syndicates from stealing its merchandise

Putting a face to a 'plains' line worked

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE BATTLEGROUND in the competitive-clothes business these days has moved to the arena of faces being attached to the brands.

Started by Bayo a couple of years ago with Lea Salonga, others followed in getting endorsers to don their clothes.

Kamiseta let go of the Cojuangco sisters in favor of Alicia Silverstone. Talk is rife that after Silverstone, Kamiseta is using Natalie Portman (Queen Amidala in the prequel to Star Wars) as their next endorser. Teaser streamers are already up covering billboards using the word "force" to announce the next face.

The arena may have crossed over to international faces but some stuck it out with local ones. Bench still maintains its local faces like Assunta da Rossi, Lucy Torres, Richard Gomez and Wendell Ramos. Petit Monde uses Sunshine Cruz-Montano.

And Plains and Prints, a relatively unknown brand as of last year, attached the face of actress Gretchen Barretto to their clothes.

After a year, its owners say putting a face, albeit a local one, amid the international faces its competitors are using, has helped generate awareness for the brand.

Its owner, Roxanne Farillas-Ang says getting an endorser worked for them. "It boosted sales and created brand awareness."

She and her husband Erickson decided on investing in an endorser last year because of their decision to expand and go into franchising.

Over the past year they have opened twelve shops compared with the once a year expansion they did when they started in November 1994.

Roxanne says her goal is to make Plains and Prints like Banana Republic of the US in terms of the market it is targeting and the quality of the products.

So far Plains and Prints has clothes, shoes, belts and bags although the accessories are on a limited basis.

Recently, the line expanded into perfume and underclothes.

Its consultant Jenni Gonzales explains the move was prompted by research that showed working women spend 20 to 25 percent of their shopping money on cosmetics and fragrances.

And she points out the figures do not change even when there is a crisis. Noticeably she adds that it is the C-D market who spend more as whatever earnings they make they spend. Few of them save.

The scent line is called EVE Mood Fragrances that come in either eau de toilette with five variants or eau de parfum with two variants. Each 50 ml. bottle sells for P295 each.

Jenni says the target is for the fragrances to capture 30 percent of sales of Plains and Prints; and for the line to increase sales by 20 percent a year.

Jenni says they paid particular attention to the design of the bottle for the fragrances to make it look classier. She adds they are tapping the A-B market for the scents. However she notes that research shows it is the C-D market who spend more and save less.

As for the underclothes, Roxanne explains they were made to complement their clothes.

She reveals that they have noted that women like working plain underclothes during the day and go for printed ones at night.

Plains and Prints targets working women and teens. Its clothes are largely smart casuals and weekend garbs.

It is one of the few retailers who have maintained their own production in the country. Most of the other clothes shops have outsourced their production to Hong Kong and China and one of the problems they face is that some of their designs are seen in markets like Divisoria and Baclaran at less than half the price they sell it in the

malls.

Roxanne says although sourcing the production abroad is cheaper and carry less headaches, she could not bear to let go of her sewers, many of whom have been with her since the start.

Her husband, Erickson, who is in charge of operations, says they have two factories with a total of about 100 people. He says they design their own fabric.

Roxanne says they have other diversification plans but they want to do it gradually and ensure that they perfect all their existing lines and systems first.

Erickson adds it costs over P2 million to open a new shop and they would like to do it gradually.

They are opening a new branch at the Alabang Town Center soon and are looking at Glorietta and other SM malls. They are already at the SM City North Edsa Basement, SM City Manila, SM Super Sucat and SM Southmall.



PLAINS & Prints endorser Gretchen Barretto, with owners Roxanne and Erickson Ang.

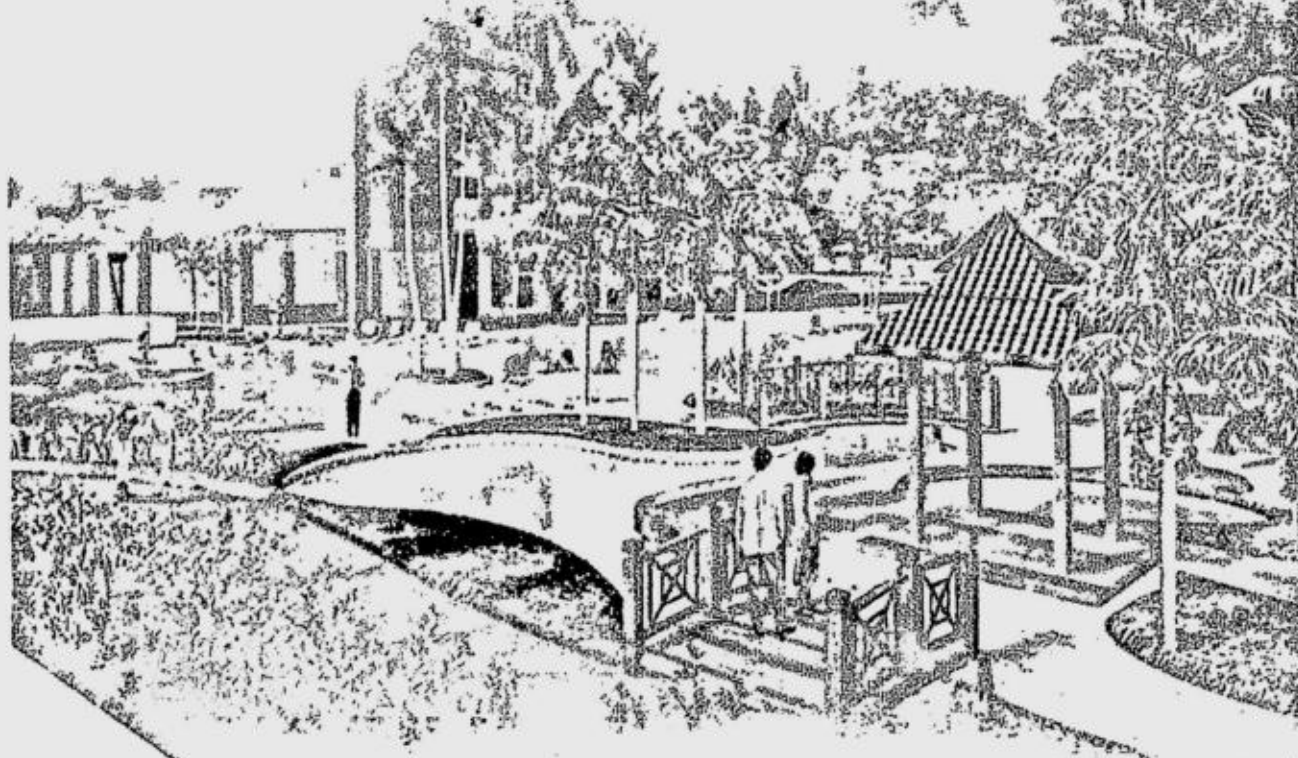
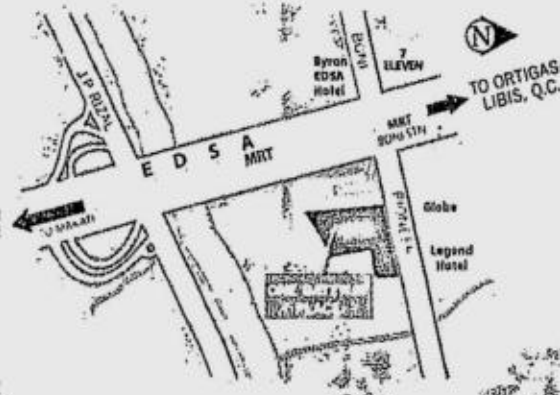
Enjoy The
CONVENIENCE
of Living Beside the Mall



The 28-storey One Gateway Place is strategically located along EDSA corner Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong City right between Makati and Ortigas. Its proximity to the MRT Boni Station and the city's major roadways makes One Gateway Place's central location even more unique and practical.

Forget about traffic and pollution. Forget about parking. Because nothing beats the comfort of living in a city within a city. Right beside One Gateway Place is Robinsons Metro Central Mall (currently under construction) where a complete line of products and services are available for residents to enjoy such as: Big R Supercenter, Handyman, Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Movieworld and numerous trendy micro retail shops, among others.

So stroll leisurely at the Mall. Relax and unwind. Let go of hurry, anxiety, pressure and worry. There's no need to rush home. With One Gateway Place, home is just a minute away.



For announcement only

Grand
Open House

May 11, 2003 • Sunday • 9AM-6PM

OTHER PROJECTS:

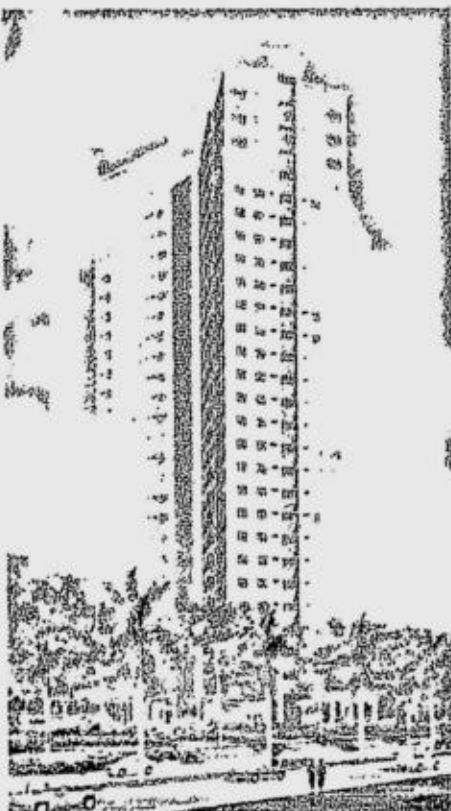
BLOOMFIELDS
(House and Lot for Sale)
Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Q.C.

GALLERIA REGENCY
(Residential Units for Sale)
33-storey residential condominium
Ortigas corner ADB Avenue, Q.C.

ROBINSONS SUMMIT CENTER
(Office Space for Lease)
37-storey residential condominium
Ayala Avenue, Makati City

ROBINSONS PLACE RESIDENCES
(Residential Units for Sale/Lease)
38-storey residential condominium
Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila

ONE ADRIATICO PLACE
(Residential Units for Sale)
39-storey residential condominium
Adriatico Corner Pedro Gil Street, Ermita, Manila



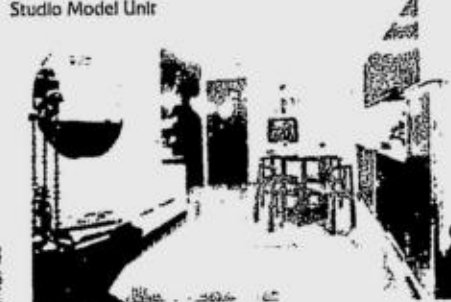
Actual photo of 1-Bedroom Model Unit



Actual photo of Studio Model Unit



Actual photo of Studio Model Unit



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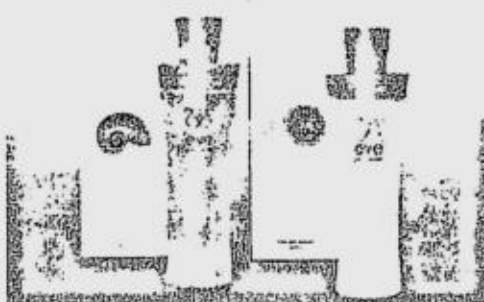
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ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City



WOMEN spend 20 percent of their shopping money on cosmetics and fragrances, according to research.

Forum to play up best practices

TWENTY-FIVE years of Dutch-Philippine Co-operation in small business productivity, communication, gender and development, environmental protection and other fields will be celebrated on May 29-30 when the Netherlands Fellows Foundation of the Philippines Inc. (NFFPI) holds the NFFPI Congress on the theme "Sharing of Best Practices."

The congress will bring together Filipino achievers—recipients of fellowship and scholarship grants from the Netherlands government—to discuss best practices in their respective fields. The forum will be held at Bayview Park Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. For inquiries, call the Institute for Small-Scale Industries, 9206923 or 9287076.

Understanding ...

From page B2-1

ing the children's education by retirement age, providing care for elderly parents or putting up a business by age 40.

A marketer needs to understand a woman's vision of her future.

A study conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit, the research arm of The Economist Magazine, reveals that a cumulative 80 percent of women buy or influence consumer and business goods and services. This information is a strong indication to the marketer that whether women are in the foreground or background of a business decision process, women wield sufficient veto power.

(The author is a professor of marketing management at the De La Salle Professional Schools Graduate School of Business with email address at kdeas@skyinet.net)

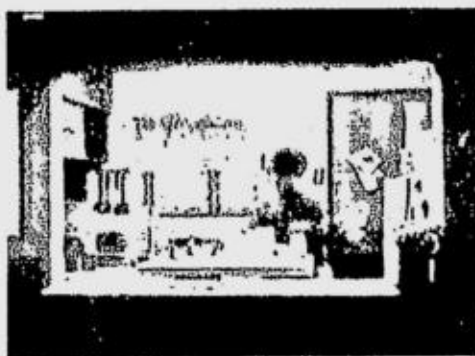
Ads that appeal to public's emotions win awards

By Roger Pe
Contributor

TBWA-Santiago, Mangada & Puno, Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi and Image Dimensions won not only the Creative Guild's Diwa Awards' radio, print and television ads of the year plums but also took home \$10,000 for their campaigns that appealed for life-saving equipment for children at the Philippine General Hospital, donations for Caritas and showcased the role of the Department of Labor.

The trophies and cash prizes were awarded by Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, representing his cousin Dedes Zobel, in last Tuesday's Philippines' Ad of the Year Awards night held at the Onstage in Greenbelt.

Began in 1998 with the support of Dedes Zobel through the Ayala Foundation, the Creative Guild's Diwa Awards yearly recognizes ads that lift the Filipino spirit by advocating love for country, family, concern for the environment, human life, minority issues, promotion of peace and human rights, civic and social education, philanthropic appeals, respect for law and authority, religious beliefs and preserving our



Title : DOLE "Bills" Client : Department of Labor & Employment

Agency : Image Dimensions Creative Director : Maun Bondoc Copywriter : Dodo Dayao, Vince Torres

Art Director : Louie Reyes, Bong Leal Producer : Jo Solano Account(s) : Adi Culalic Caster : Alvin Manacsa

Production House : ACES Director : Mark Querubin Cinematographer : Larry Manda Editor : Dong dela Vega, Lia Martinez

Post Production House : Roadrunner Music/Soundtrack : Whannie Dellosa

culture and heritage.

"It also aims to reward advertising professionals who deserve the recognition for their creativity and intellect towards a civic cause for they know the most effective methods in achieving quicker results using their training and their experiences," says Dedes Zobel.

"We want to highlight on the better things. While social realism is good, I think we should focus more on our emotional and positive traits so that they may

seep into our psyche. They can do wonders and improve the lives of the Filipino," says Mara de Tavera, spokesperson of Dedes.

TBWA-Santiago, Mangada & Puno's heart-rending radio ad of a child counting the numbers of children who have already died at PGH bested JWT's "Friends At Christmas." TBWA's creative team were Melvin Mangada (CD), Tanke Tankeko (Copywriter) and Sunny Lucero (Producer).

Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi won the

print ad of the year hands down for its powerful "Stigmata" campaign done for Caritas. It showed a dramatic black and white, close-up shot of a hand with a crucifix wound. On Ace-Saatchi's creative team were Merlee Jayme (ECD), Eugene Demata (CD), Badong Abesamis (ACD) and Carl Urgino (Art Director).

Image Dimensions pulled the rug from under two strong contenders: Philippine Cerebral Palsy's "Puppet" by Basic Advertising

and TBWA's "Bottles" for Extra Joss. The simply presented commercial, executed in a light tone as opposed to the usually stark public service ads, projected the Department of Labor's capability of providing swift jobs for Filipino workers.

Members of Image Dimensions' creative team were Maun Bondoc (CD), Dodo Dayao and Vince Torres (Copywriters), Louie Reyes and Bong Leal (Art Directors) and Jo Solano (Producer).

The Creative Guild chooses the best public service Ad of the Month for print, radio and television. At the end of the year, these monthly winners automatically become finalists for the Diwa Ad of the Year Awards.

Now on its sixth year, the Diwa Awards highlights the Creative Guild's larger sense of mission by making it as not just as a mere award-giving body but with a purpose of lifting our society to a higher level.

Consumers name the brands that reign in Asia

WHAT do Philippine Airlines, Swatch, Shell, Sony, Canon and Campbell's Soup have in common? They are some of the coveted brands that reign supreme according to the Asian consumers surveyed in the Reader's Digest SuperBrands Survey 2003.

These include Filipino respondents who count these brands as among their top choices together with Coca Cola, Petron, Nokia, Pilot, Hewlett Packard and General Electric.

Winning SuperBrands named by Filipinos as their single preferred brand in 40 categories of products and services—ranging from luxury goods to everyday necessities, were awarded during a dinner ceremony hosted recently by Reader's Digest Asia-Philippines at the Davao Function Room of the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Representatives of this year's SuperBrands graced the event to receive plaques from Lilet Camara-Yan, Advertising Director of Reader's Digest Asia-Philippines. Guest of Honor Leonardo R. Garcia, Jr., president of the Philippine Marketing Association, shared his views on being a "superbrand" in challenging times in a talk.

Consumer preferences

Given today's wide consumer

choice on products and services available and the intense competition vying for consumer attention and hard-earned money, the Reader's Digest SuperBrands survey in Asia helps shed light on the consuming preferences of a representative cross-section of Asian Society.

It also gives a comparison of how these winning brands are doing over the last five years.

"This is the 5th consecutive year that Reader's Digest has undertaken the SuperBrands survey and once again we are seeing Asia's strongest brands performing incredibly well. Traditional dominant brands such as Sony, Rolex and Canon still rate highly among consumers but this year we have seen more brands such as Samsung and Fuji Xerox emerge as SuperBrands for the first time. Many local brands also perform well particularly in the food and drink categories," says Peter Jeffery, Associate Publisher, Reader's Digest Asia.

New category

This year, a new category—"Juice" is added. A highly competitive category, in most markets surveyed, locals prefer their own locally manufactured beverage. For their juice brand, Filipinos go for

Del Monte and Tang, two new additions in this year's roster of winners.

Honda and Toyota continue to win votes of confidence as dream cars of Filipinos.

In the Philippines, locals are loyal to the national carrier—Philippines Airlines. It achieved Platinum status locally.

Cathay Pacific is also a preferred choice of travel as it is also voted as a Gold SuperBrand locally.

When it comes to home away from home, locals recommend The Manila Hotel and the Shangri-la. They are again voted as SuperBrands this year.

The marketing people at San Miguel Beer will be toasting as it clinches a Platinum award for beer category again this year. It has been voted consecutively as a SuperBrand for the 5th time. People behind Nescafé also have reason to celebrate. According to the survey results, Filipinos still get their caffeine fix with Nescafé coffee, a consistent performer—a Platinum SuperBrand over the years and throughout Asia.

Giant brands

Giant brands—Nokia and Sony still rule in Asia, they managed to retain their SuperBrand status for the 5th year running in their respective categories.

This year's survey also unveils a total of 36 new SuperBrands (excluding the Juice category) across other categories and markets.

Voted for the first time by Filipinos and other Asian consumers is Fuji Xerox. It did remarkably well in all markets under office equipment (fax & photocopier) category. Canon and Panasonic retained their SuperBrand status for the same category.

Korean drama series aren't the only Asian craze, Samsung emerged as a Reader's Digest SuperBrand for the first time in the category of television in some markets surveyed. Sony and Panasonic remained unbeatable, they are again voted as SuperBrands in this category. JVC and Sharp are also given the thumbs-up by Filipinos and voted as Gold SuperBrands in the survey.

And if you sport a Swatch, you are not alone, you share this brand preference with some of the consumers surveyed, including Filipino respondents who voted Swatch as a SuperBrand for the first time this year. It is gaining in popularity and is an up and coming brand in the watch category. Rolex continues to be the premium choice for watches as it is again voted a Platinum SuperBrand this year in most markets



LILET Camara-Yan, Reader's Digest Asia-Philippines Advertising Director; Ral Bruma, marketing communications manager of Sony Philippines; Ariel Roselo and Leonardo Garcia. Sony was voted SuperBrand in five categories.

surveyed. And Seiko is also voted as a Gold SuperBrand winner.

Respondents from six markets—Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines—were asked to name their single preferred brand in 40 categories of products and services. They range from luxury goods to everyday necessities. A total of 6,000 questionnaires were analyzed—an average of 1,000 for each market.

The voted brands were rated quantitatively and qualitatively

based on five determining factors: quality, value, trustworthiness, strong image and understanding of customer needs.

The SuperBrand Gold and Platinum award winners achieved their status by receiving the highest ratings from consumers. Gold SuperBrands status is awarded to brands whose performance rates significantly above others in the category. Platinum SuperBrands status recognizes the best of the best, only a handful of these top-notch brands achieved Platinum status.

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UNIT MANAGERS (From Left to Right): Ellen F. De Le, Virgie M. Barlaan

UNIT COUNSELORS (From Left to Right): Antonio R. Cruz, Rebecca J. Caban, and others. NOT IN PICTURE: Josemar, Ferrano, Rival, Mendola, and others.

RE-Archival
The Winner of the Year
The Gold Standard

Food and coffee resto holds expansion in RP

DOMÉ Café, the Australian franchise known for its selection of gourmet food and fine coffee holds its expansion plans and will instead focus on services and systems enhancements as part of its business development strategy.

This was revealed by Dome Café regional franchisee Ashok Melwani, who was in Manila recently to observe local operations and attend the launch of Dome's Java Nights Live.

"We remain optimistic about doing business here in Manila, especially since Dome is doing very well. But as far as expansion is concerned, we are adopting a wait-and-see attitude because of

the current global situation. We begin our service enhancements through the upgrading of our menu and the launch of a new bar concept like Java Nights Live," says Melwani.

Dome Café recently introduced a new set of food choices to ensure that diners don't get the same meals over and over. Melwani says that Dome's menu is updated annually. He adds that as much as 15 to 25 percent of its menu contains local flavors and that some of the standard fares are even adjusted to suit the local taste.

"The challenge of how to draw more people to Dome and making sure they enjoy what

they came for is something we enthusiastically address all the time. Thankfully for us, diners really appreciate our meals and keep coming back for more," says Melwani.

An indication that Dome has succeeded in satisfying diners can be observed in Malaysia.

Melwani proudly says that no less than former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed is known to quietly visit the local Dome Café outlet at least once every month to enjoy Dome's offerings.

Dome recently introduced a new bar concept with the launch of Java Nights Live, an activity that features live performances

of the country's noted bands. Dome Café Philippines is unique among other global branches since it is the first and only outlet to feature live entertainment.

Dome Café has 61 outlets located in Brisbane, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Melbourne, Penang, Perth, Singapore and Sydney. In Manila, Dome Café is located at Greenbelt 1, Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; Solid Mills Building, Dela Rosa corner Adelantado Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City; Shangri-La Plaza Mall; The Podium and the second floor of Lifestyles of the Powerplant Mall in Rockwell, Makati City.



DOMÉ Café regional franchisee Ashok Melwani with director Leo Riingen.

Hotel adopts the one-stop shop scheme in events management

"WE WANT the meeting organizers to have a pleasant experience in organizing an event. We want them to be stress-free and be happy. We want them to remember the event was successful at Traders Hotel Manila. This is what we want," Henry Lee, general manager of the 291-room property on Roxas Boulevard, comments.

Managed by Asia's leading hotel company, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, Traders Hotel Manila has implemented the group wide Events Management Process. Under the scheme, the sales people generate leads and then pass it on to the Events Management Team. The Events Management Team, then, picks up from where the sales group takes off. The team will handle the writing of the proposal, finalize the contract, supervise site inspections and take care of the million and one things that need to be done for an event.

Structurally, members of the Events Management Team were the former Catering and Meeting Services Department staff. Operationally, this re-engineering is done to improve communications between frontline

sales people and operational support staff.

In effect, the Events Management Team services the client from the time the client places a tentative booking at the hotel to the time that the actual event takes place. With the Events Management in place, sales people can concentrate more on generating new leads, outside selling and networking. This supports the concept of "one-stop-shop."

"We operate in a highly competitive climate and with this initiative, Traders Hotel Manila has an edge in organizing events by raising service standards and improving the process. The main difference will be our staff, they are very special people and take keen interest in our guests," Lee adds.

To better ensure that the clients are accorded the attention that they deserve, Traders Hotel Manila also implemented the "Meeting Promise" whereby the client coordinating with the hotel will be given a pin to wear during the duration of his event. All hotel staff are instructed to give priority to this client whenever their assistance are needed.



THE EVENTS Management Team of Traders Hotel Manila with general manager, Henry Lee, seated center with Ian Catacutan, director of events management and Malou Vicotria. Standing from left: Marites Caluen, Rizza Miranda, Marwin Velicaria and Billy Tan.

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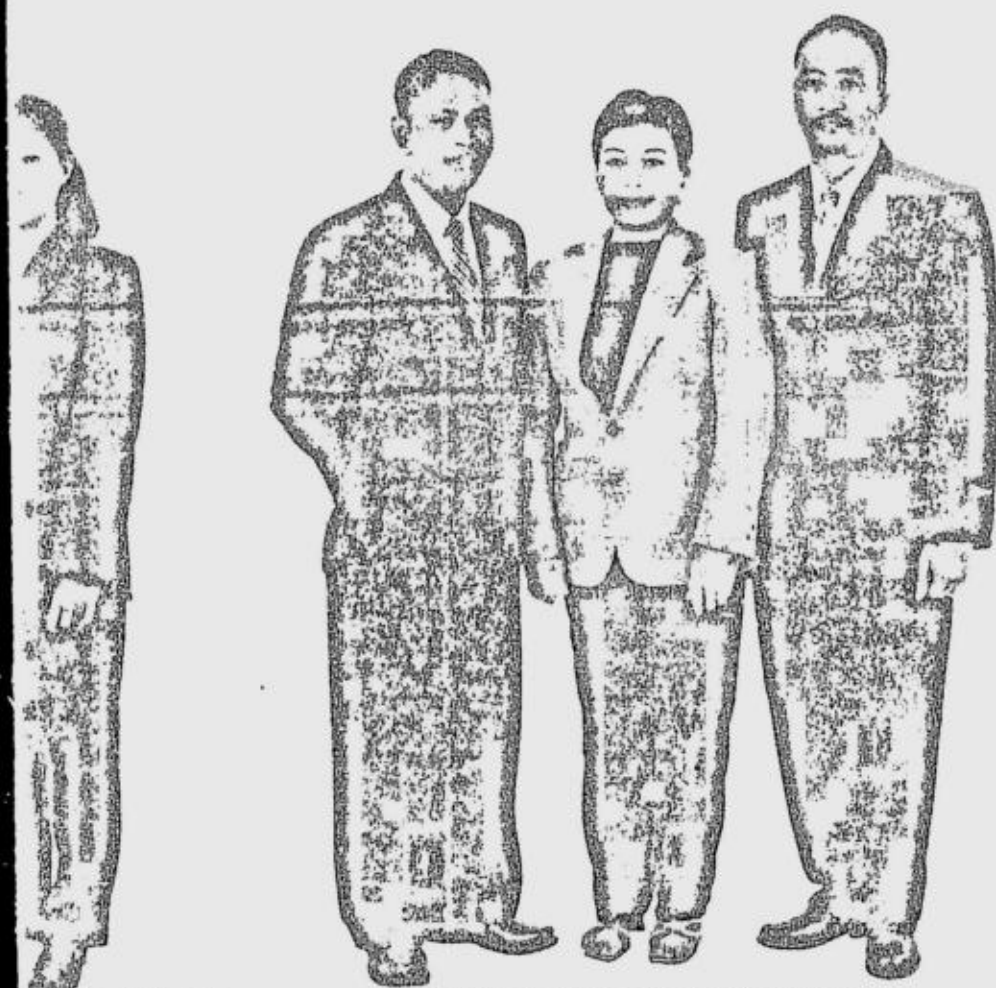
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s that set us apart.



Ederlina A. Mercado,

District Managers (From Left to Right): Noel R. Magino, Conchita T. Delos Reyes, Reynaldo L. Barlaan



Reman E. Arcibal
Agency Manager

Associates
Marketing Excellence
Agency Management

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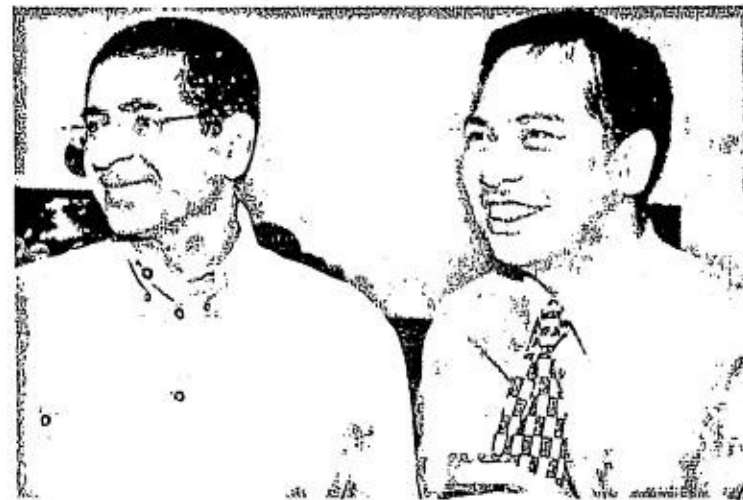
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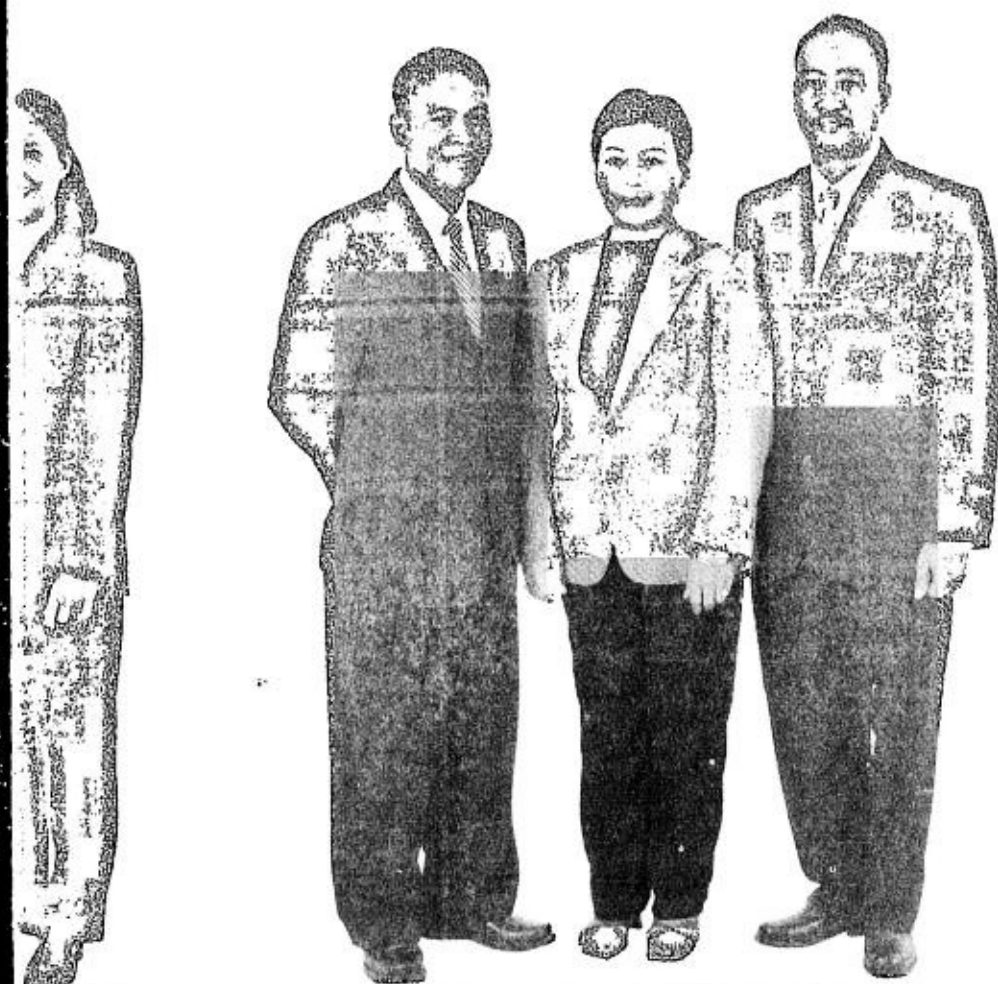
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People, Events & Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

'What's with the Filipino youth?'

THE FILIPINO youth are the focus of the Fifth National Social Science Congress scheduled May 15 to 17 at the Philippine Social Science Center on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

Titled "What's With the Filipino Youth: Perspectives From the Social Sciences," the congress will feature more than 70 research papers covering youth topics ranging from self-concept and identity formation to youth programs and services.

One of the panel sessions will present the results of the Study on

Filipino Youth in Transition undertaken by the Unesco National Commission of the Philippines. The study sought to find out what young people aspire for, what they value most in life, who and what their major influences are and how they perceive themselves and feel about themselves.

The study will compare results obtained from regular public and private high schools in Metro Manila and Pampanga and from some of the country's special schools such as the Philippine Science High School, Philippine High School for

the Arts and the OB Montessori Professional High School.

Registration fee for the congress is P2,000 per person. The fee covers conference materials, meals and free access to all sessions. Conference materials include a state-of-the-art paper on the Filipino youth, an annotated bibliography of youth studies and a compilation of statistics on the Filipino youth.

More information may be obtained by calling the Philippine Social Science Council at 929-2671 and 922-9630 or by sending an e-mail to programs@pssc.org.ph.



BPI REPORTS IMPRESSIVE GAINS

The Bank of the Philippine Islands reported impressive gains despite various economic challenges during the recent annual stockholders' meeting. Leading the event were (from left) Jaime

Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, BPI vice chair, Jaime Zobel de Ayala, BPI board chair, Xavier Loinaz, BPI president, and Fernando Zobel de Ayala, BPI director.

Advanced technique on massage therapy here

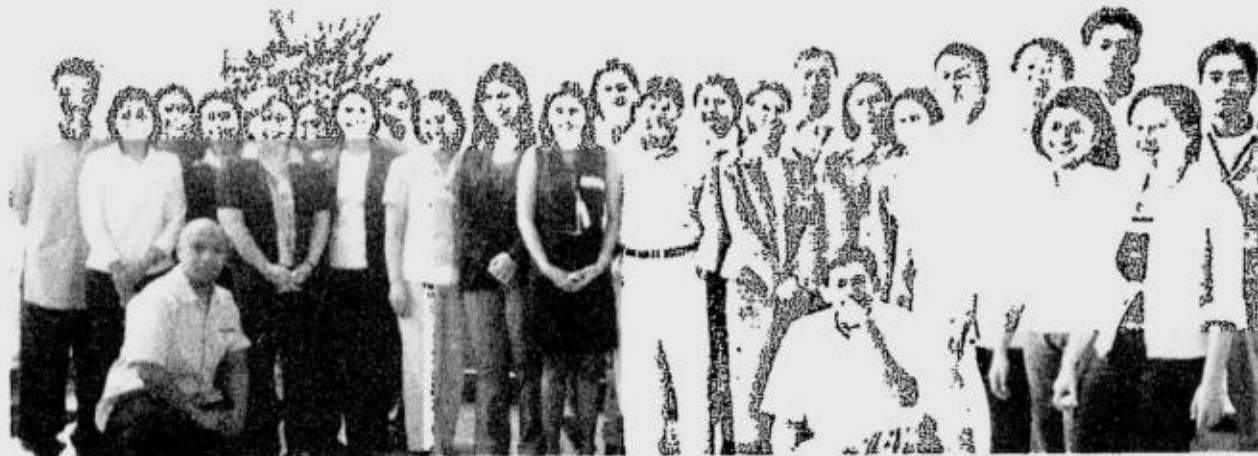
A SCIENTIFIC and advanced technique in pediatric, geriatric, lymphatic drainage, foot and sports therapeutic massage is now being introduced in the field of alternative natural therapy.

This multidisciplinary approach advanced therapy will be introduced in a seminar-training to be held by the INA East West Holistic Center (724-8168) at Room 205 CRB Building, Edsa, Cubao, Quezon City (in front of Farmers' Market). The training objective is to make the practice of massage therapy professional through the adoption of advanced scientific approaches and techniques that would benefit caregivers, health workers, physical therapists, and those who would like to earn a

living doing massage therapies, and making them more competent for local and overseas employment.

The on-the-job training will be headed by Dr. Sonny Viloria, a regular host of RPN 9's "Usapang Medikal of Tropang Pinoy". He has completed intense training in Australia, United States, and in other Asian countries.

The training includes Basic Therapeutic Massage, and Foot Massage on May 10. Other courses to learn are Pediatric Massage/Geriatric Massage, Advanced Therapeutic, Sports Massage, Shiatsu, Aromatherapy, Lymphatic Drainage Massage and the Department of Health Massage Licensure Review Exam.



ISUZU CUSTOMER RELATIONS TEAM GEARS UP

Isuzu Philippines Corp (IPC) executive vice president Kazuhiko Sho (7th from right) rallies behind representatives of Isuzu's customer relations officers from its Metro Manila and Luzon dealerships during its First Customer Relations Conference held at Isuzu Philippines Corp. in Binan, Laguna. Isuzu's customer relations team is gearing up for further refinements in its customer

service operations, attuned to its long-term thrust of improving overall levels of customer satisfaction. Joining the group are Hector Bulatao (3rd from right), director for operations of Isuzu's Inteco dealerships, Ulysses Jarina (4th from right), branch manager of Inteco Quezon Avenue, and Rommel R. Cortez (squatting, left) IPC's customer relations manager.

New VFR book shows how to raise funds

AS A fundraiser for your non-profit organization, volunteer network, church group, or college organization, you have probably tried searching for fund raising resources only to feel frustrated with the lack of useful and relevant fund raising resources in the Philippine market.

"The Fund Raiser's Guide to Fund Raising", a new book by Mayan Quebral and Venture for Fund Raising, culls tried-and-tested theories, data, and practical information to provide you with material that is inspiring, relevant, and truly Filipino. More than being just a "how-to" book, it offers anecdotes from veteran fundraisers, to show non-profits of all shapes and sizes how success can be achieved. The concepts discussed here are backed by the expertise of Venture for Fund Raising, the pioneer in professional fund raising. According to Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, president of the Philippine Daily Inquirer: "All NGOs don't just want this book; they need it!"

To get your copy of the book, visit the National Bookstore branch nearest you, or call Venture for Fund Raising at 634-8889 to 90. Your book purchase of P399 supports Venture for Fund Raising's mission of helping NGOs raise and give the resources needed to fulfill their missions.



MEDICAL MISSION IN BACOR

The Tribong MFI volunteers composed of scholars and staff of Mer-alco Foundation Inc. (MFI) spearheaded the medical mission in Barangay Molino 5, Bacoor, Cavite where 1,419 patients were served. The Inner Wheel Club of Makati sponsored the mission led by chair Baby Golez with the cooperation of the San Juan de Dios Hospital doc-

tors and the Tribong MFI dental volunteers. Shown is Rep. Plaridel Abaya (2nd from right) of the 1st District of Cavite administering medicines to a patient. Looking on are Col. Alex T. Escano (right) and Barangay Captain Nilo Domingo (3rd from right). MFI has completed 38 missions since 2000 and has served 82,429 patients.



'HOTTAH HOTTAH' AT THE MANILA YOUTH GAMES

Coca-Cola's Hottah Hottah Dancers rocked the Ninoy Aquino Sports Complex as they performed the hottest summer dance craze-the 'Hottah-Hottah', before a 15,000-strong crowd in the opening ceremonies of the prestigious Manila Youth Games. The

Manila Youth Games is organized by the City Government of Manila spearheaded by the Manila Sports Council and its chair Arnold I. Atienza. Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) is one of the sponsors of this annual event.



LANI GETS ACTIVE VS PIRACY

Actress Lani Mercado, wife of Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) chair Ramon 'Bong' Revilla Jr., was the guest of honor for Saint Michael's College of Laguna's anti-video piracy campaign. Shown is Lani, who represented the VRB chair

during the campaign, with SMCL's Society of Students Volunteers (SSV) and SMCL's director for community services professor Leonila D. Cuasay (front row, right). For more information about SMCL, log on to www.smcl.edu.ph.



JOHNSON AND JOHNSON HANDS OVER DONATION TO UP-PGH

In celebration of Mother's Day, Johnson and Johnson donates P1 million worth of medical equipment to the Neonatal and Pediatric Intensive Care Units of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital Department of Pediatrics. The donation will also help in the setting up of the new Lactation Unit in the hospital. Receiving the plaque are representatives of PGH (from left) Dr. Perla D. Santos Ocampo, executive director; Dr. Carmelo Alfiller, chair,

UP-PGH Department of Pediatrics; Dr. Juan Maria Pablo Nanagas, director, UP-PGH Medical Center; and Josefina Fermin, executive director. J&J representatives present during the handover are (from right) Grace Castaño, president and managing director; Michael del Prado, managing director; TaeHong Choi, general manager; Santiago Robles, external affairs director; and Diosdado Salvador, president of J&J Asean.

'Wedding Essentials' ongoing

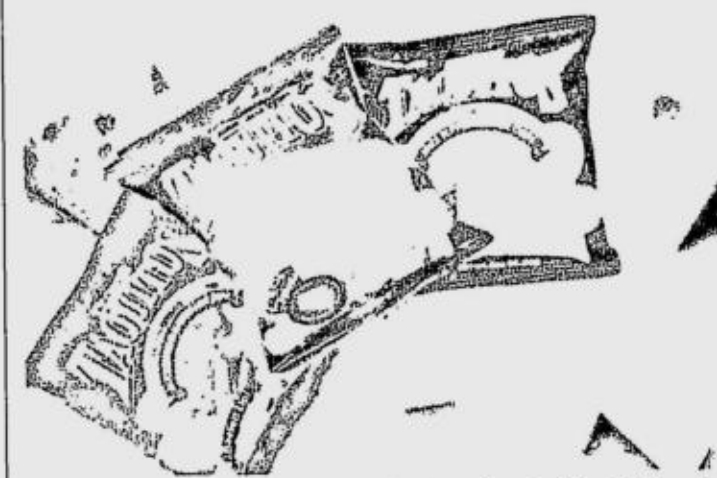
PHILTRADE Exhibit brings to Robinsons Place Manila select and quality wedding suppliers as it hosts "Wedding Essentials" from May 2 to 15 at the Padre Faura Atrium, Robinsons Place Manila. Future bride and groom can have direct consultations with caterers, coordinators, designers and stylists during the 2-week event. The fair features the special centerpiece creation of event stylist Henry Pascual and the bridal gown ensemble by bridal designer Edward Teng. For more details, call 820-7879 or 820-1570.

Contender School 5

AFTER holding contender schools in different key places in the country such as Cagayan de Oro, Subic and Cebu City, the International Marketing Group (IMG) will hold the Contender School 5 in Makati City. IMG members from all over the country are enjoined to attend the 3-day affair. The "explosion" begins on May 16 and 18 at the IMG Makati office at the 3rd floor of King's Court I, 2129 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City for X-wave and contenders only while May 17, at Le Pavillion, Metropolitan Park, Roxas Boulevard corner Edsa, Pasay City, is open to all. This would be the first time a contender school will be held in Metro Manila. Members are thus challenged to have the most contenders and build more B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 and B10 legs. Facilitator is master builder Xuan Nguyen of Korea. There will be a disco-dinner for all new 7-day contender qualifiers at the end of the Contender School.

ProductFiles

Jack 'n Jill Taquitos adds cheese



IT WAS during the rave culture in the '90s that Jack 'n Jill Taquitos was launched with its signature Ranch Barbecue flavor. The hickory barbecue taste with a tinge of sweetness was an instant hit with the "Generation X" crowd because of the uncomplicated and familiar tasting flavor of honest-to-goodness barbecue. And whether it was watching TV at home, doing the term paper at midnight, or reading a good, relaxing book in the mid afternoon, Jack 'n Jill Taquitos became a convenient, accessible partner and companion.

To continue providing its growing consumers with basic flavors that suit the individual tastebuds, Taquitos Spice was introduced in January 2002. The familiar, spicy but sweet flavor proved itself a winner again among the young crowd.

Now, cheese lovers will surely love the newest flavor of the Taquitos brand of snacks. The newest variant completes the flavor lineup of Jack 'n Jill Taquitos. The chips are toasted, then fried to a perfect crisp so you can feel a distinct, snappy crunch and the zesty cheesy flavor that will surely tickle your taste buds.

Taquitos is fast gaining ground in the snack food market. The all-familiar, catchy melody of Claire de la Fuente's "Sayang" in the new TV commercial of Taquitos Cheese Flavor is being sung even by kids, proving that the tune is something guaranteed to stick in the minds of Taquitos lovers. Taquitos Ranch Barbecue, Spice, and now Cheese are available in both the 27g pouch and 100g pouch.

Bankard launches straight-talking, no-frills credit card

BANKARD Inc., a pioneer in the credit card industry, gifts the market with a new credit card product envisioned to fulfill cardholders' dreams of low monthly interest rates and affordable annual fees.

A straight-talking card that doesn't beat around the bush about what it offers, the myDream JCB Card will allow cardholders to purchase major items they have long dreamed of, go on that trip they have long planned for, and still have some money left to purchase the basic things. As Bankard president and CEO Joven Reyes envisions it, "myDream JCB will be a breakthrough product that will change the way the public views credit cards. No longer will owning a credit card be regarded as a burden. myDream JCB will prove that owning a card can help one better manage her funds and help her more easily afford the things she dreams of having for her family."

A joint product of Bankard Inc. and JCB International, the leading credit card provider in Japan and an established international card brand, the myDream JCB Card boasts of exciting benefits which cost-conscious cardholders will find appealing and practical. It has the lowest annual fee of

P800 among international cards, and the lowest effective revolving interest rate of 2.5 percent per month compared to the 3.25 percent to 3.5 percent charged by other credit cards in the market. Additionally, its low effective installment interest rates of 1.5 percent per month for three months term, 1.75 percent per month for six months, and 2 percent per month for 12 months allow one to purchase basic home furnishings and appliances, pay tuition or go on those dream vacations and pay these in installments that are easy and truly more affordable.

To avail themselves of these benefits immediately, non-Bankard cardholders can apply for myDream JCB Card and simultaneously transfer the balances of their non-Bankard credit cards to myDream JCB. Balance transfer to myDream JCB, like the card itself, is simple and straightforward. To avail of this feature, interested parties may call the myDream JCB Hotline at 888-1818.

It is easy to understand why Bankard and JCB International came up with the name "myDream" for the no-frills card. Owning one is a dream-come-true for cost-conscious cardholders burdened with high interest

rates payments.

An international card, myDream JCB Card is accepted in about 30,000 merchant stores ranging from retail and service stores, hotels, restaurants, entertainment, amusement centers and more.

Other value-added benefits of myDream JCB Card include a balance conversion facility that allows cardholders to convert their retail purchases to installment just by calling the myDream JCB Hotline; the flexible PEP minimum which allows the cardholder to pay only 5 percent of his total amount due, a wide payment network that makes it easy for cardholders to settle their monthly credit card bills, and a 24-hour, 7 day-a-week Customer Service Hotline (888-1818) dedicated to assist myDream JCB cardholders in all their queries and needs.

myDream JCB Card, the easy-to-pay and low-interest credit card, is a dream card that promises to meet the needs of the present-day cardholders.

JCB is the leading international credit card brand from Japan. Bankard is a pioneer in the Philippine credit card industry and is a member of the Yuchengco Group of Companies.



ALUMNAE FOUNDATION INDUCTS TRUSTEES

The College of the Holy Spirit Alumnae Foundation recently held the Induction of the 2003 board of trustees at the Mendiola Campus. Shown are, front row, from left, Rose Navarro Monasterial, Menchu Dayrit Padilla, Sister Vivinia S.Sp.s., Rosalou Soriano Lamson, Sister Eufasia Marcojos S.Sp.s., Isa

Yuseco San Pablo, Lynn Raquel Santos Sunico, Cecilia Valmonte, and Aida Rapatan Saldua. Second row, from left, are Erla de Guzman, Marlowe Baltazar, Sage, Carmencita Nuguid Elicita, Cynthia Lorenzo Picalzo, Jovie Galan, Dolly Urro Nazareno, Vique Torres del Rosario, and Roxane Mendoza Bellardo.

Nestle appoints new CEO

NESTLE Philippines Inc. announces the appointment of Salvador Pigem as its new chief executive officer effective April 1, following the retirement of Juan B. Santos, which took effect March 31. Santos will continue as chair of the company, ranked one of the country's top 10 corporations.

Before his appointment to the top post at Nestle Philippines, Pigem, who hails from Barcelona, Spain, was market head of PT Nestle Indonesia from November 1999 to February 2003. His career with Nestle began in 1978, when he joined Sociedad Nestle AEPA in Barcelona as project engineer, and later was tapped to head the construction unit at the corporate office in charge of factory construction projects. In 1985, he worked as manufacturing manager for infant cereal at the Nestle La Penilla Factory, and was later promoted to assistant factory manager. In 1988, he became factory manager of Nestle's largest ice cream factory in Europe, France Glaces Findus, in Beauvais, France.

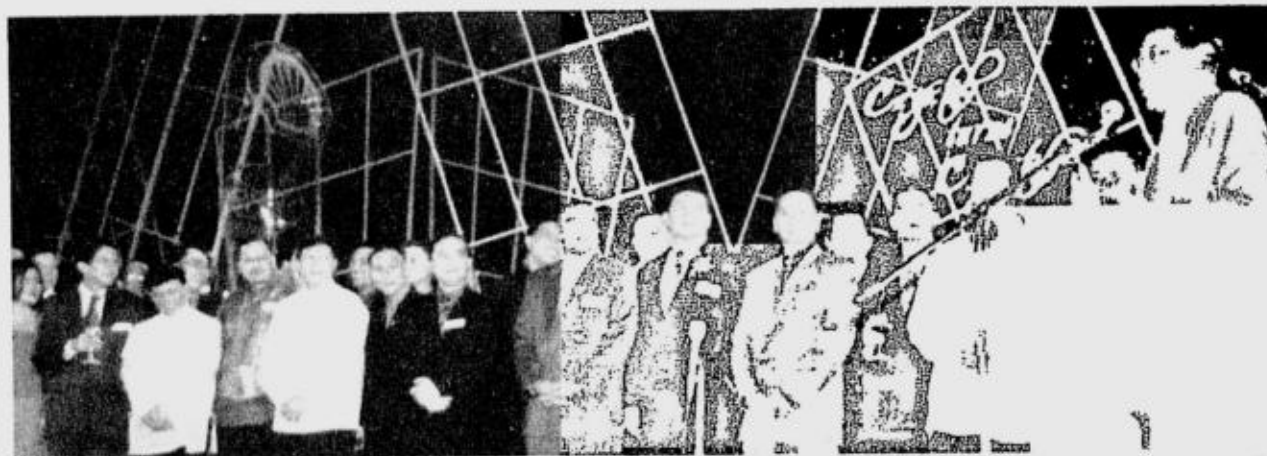
In 1991, Pigem was sent to Nestle Philippines on a short mission. A year later, he was assigned to Nestle Thailand Ltd. in Bangkok as technical manager. He moved to Nestec Ltd. in Vevey, Switzerland as technical man-



PIGEM

ager and research and development coordinator at the confectionery and ice cream strategic business unit after two years.

In April 1996, he returned to the Philippines to become general manager of the ice cream division. He left Nestle Philippines in October 1999 to head PT Nestle Indonesia.



SHELL HONORS OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. celebrated the 15th Crystal Awards to give recognition to top performing Shell sales and distribution employees. Launched in 1989, the Shell Crystal Awards continuously inspires employees to deliver excellent

service, making Shell a top performer of first choice. The awards night was held at the Philippine Plaza March 21. Shown is Shell companies in the Philippines country chair Eliseo Santiago honoring this year's Crystal awardees.

In the Company of Leaders



Is 2003's Best Employer

Global human resources outsourcing and consulting firm Hewitt Associates, co-sponsored together with the Management Association of the Philippines and Business World, awarded SMART Communications Inc. the accolade of Best Employer in Asia 2003-Philippines. Although the award focuses the public's attention on the company being the 'Best Employer', the ironic twist in SMART's secret of success is based on the employees taking ownership of the company itself.

The SMART Culture

In a speech given to the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAAP), SMART President and CEO Napoleon Nazareno talked about staying power, versatility, empowerment, belonging, ownership, and the spirit of volunteerism. Mr. Nazareno described the competition in the telecommunications business as 'not tailored for the faint-hearted.' He went on to say that, "You always have to be on your toes. There is no time to rest on your laurels because the other guys are plotting to trash you. The death blow of the competition can come from the direction least expected."

Best Employers of 2003

How did SMART win this year's award? According to Susan Manalo of Hewitt Associates said the crucial criteria included:

- 1) Good communication and feedback, opportunities for employees to provide insights-Smart is described by insiders and observers as a relatively flat organization, lending itself well to excellent communication amongst internal publics, or in Smart terms, efficient "cascades" that facilitate key collaborations.
- 2) Development programs that encourage employees to improve their skills and potential -Smart is fastidious in developing and implementing training programs that keep it up to date in the cutting edge field of telecommunications where technology proceeds at the light speed pace that it does.
- 3) Challenging employees to wear different hats in order to increase competencies and teamwork- One of the Smart dictums especially in marketing is "to be flexible" and dynamic, "to lead" and not to follow. Historically, Smart has been quite the success in making "thinking out of the box" pay off.

The pride of one's self and one's work is the driving force behind a company that has succeeded in being the preeminent corporation in an extremely competitive industry. It has also translated into SMART having thousands of the best, most empowered leaders in any industry, and as a consequence, into being the most respected employer in Philippines for 2003



Receiving the Best Employer in Asia-Philippine Awards Night are (fourth from left) SMART President and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno and (extreme left) SMART Human Resources Management and Development Group Head Annette V. Santiago. Also in the photo are Hewitt Associates Country Manager Susan Rivera-Manalo, Hewitt Associates Market Leader for South Asia Ravi Virmani, and Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Business World Board Member Cesar Virata.





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Editor Louie C. Camino

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Kris may run vs Alma in Parañaque



THE AQUINO family "would be perfect without me," says Kris.



ALMA Moreno (above) has started to prepare to run for mayor of the southern Metro Manila city now ruled by Joey Marquez, her estranged husband and Kris's current boyfriend



'PAKERS' FPJ and billiards king Efrén "Bata" Reyes.

FPJ: My new movie is not for 2004 campaign

/C3



DID YOU KNOW...

A very pregnant Aya Medel was seen dining at Alfredo's on Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City with fellow sexy star Via Veloso and two other companions. Who could be the proud dad of Aya's child? But why was Aya with friends instead of the dad in this important period in her life?

KRIS Aquino may have indicated her desire to run for the Senate, but she is not averse to running for local office, perhaps to replace her current partner, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, whose third term ends next year and who is disqualified from re-election.

So, will she face off with Mayor Marquez's estranged wife, actress Alma Moreno, who is rumored to be interested in the post? Kris did not entirely disregard that likelihood, but said she lacks residency.

"You need a year's residency to run for public office," she explained.

The tantalizing prospect of a "Mayor Kris" loomed large when Aquino, the chatterbox known for her spontaneous, sometimes tactless remarks and comments, was interviewed by Boy Abunda on the new television show, "Kontrobersyal." The new show will premier tomorrow on ABS-CBN Channel 2 at 10:30 p.m.

Asked if she was willing to face Alma for the mayorship, Kris replied, "Ang alam ko, Boy, it takes a year of residency to be able to run or seek public office from the time you file your candidacy or one year from election day."

Perhaps suddenly realizing the import of her remarks, Kris retreated, "Hindi! Joke lang 'yun ah! Diyos ko! Hindi ko alam. Hindi. Hello?"

In a revealing interview with New York Times, Kris said she would run for the Senate in 2010, when she turns 39. But it seems her controversial romance with Marquez, which has pitted her against her low-key, very correct family, is destined for the political battlefield.

But for Kris, the bigger battlefield remains the heart. "I believe in love," she said in the TV interview. "Sorry, that's a

stupid answer talaga, pero Boy, in love ako eh."

Kris called Marquez "a very special person." "What impresses me most about him is his having worked through the ranks," she said. She said Marquez is a self-made man who worked as a car wash boy and a janitor during his early days of struggle.

Kris added Marquez has charisma. "He's like a magnet in the sense that he draws people in," she said.

She said they've had fights over her

KRIS/C4

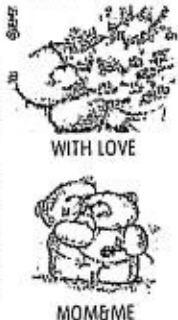
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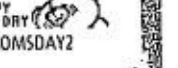
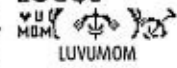
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

FPJ: My new movie is not for 2004 campaign

"TD RATHER stay in show biz and make movies."

This is the stock reply of Philippine cinema's action king, Fernando Poe Jr., when asked these days if he would run for president in the 2004 elections.

This was also FPJ's answer when, during Tuesday night's press con for his newest movie, he was asked to confirm talk that he had been invited to be the running mate of former Sen. Raul Roco, who is expected to again run for president in 2004.

"Kung sino-sino na lang and I'm the last to know," FPJ told INQUIRER Entertainment before the press con proper started. "I don't want to comment about them. Time-out muna tayo sa pulitika. I was never interest-

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio



ed in politics anyway."

He also denied that his latest film, "Pakners," is in preparation for his 2004 political campaign.

"This movie is for the masses," he said. "This is not in any way a political move."

He added: "It's really funny because when I shake the hands of people now, they think I'm already campaigning."

He claimed he was surprised that some sectors insist on linking his name to several politicians in connection with the 2004 presidential election. These include Senators Loren Legarda, Gringo Honasan and Tito Sotto, and Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., son of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

FPJ said he was not feeling any pressure to run for president, despite being prodded by his close friend, the fallen former president, Joseph Estrada.

Since his ouster in January 2001, Estrada has been detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City. When he turned 66 last April 19, a Black Saturday, Estrada



THE SHIRT is not a political strategy, vows "Da King."

FPJ/C6

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Debt-free IBC 13 opens 2 'alternative' shows

By Raul C. Dancel
Contributor

WITH its P200-million debt problem behind it, Island Broadcast Corp. is beefing up its "Island TV 13" line-up with two new programs—a celebrity talk show and a children's show—that it is positioning as an alternative to the usual fare that other networks currently air.

In a news conference last Wednesday, the country's third-biggest network introduced "CelebrityDATcom" and "KIDScetera".

"CelebrityDATcom," directed by Manny Castañeda, will start airing on May 22, while "KIDScetera" is set to begin in June.

"CelebrityDATcom" will air every Thursday, occupying the 9:30 p.m. time slot. It will be hosted by veteran talk show host and INQUIRER Entertainment columnist Dolly Ann Carvajal, actress Angelu de Leon and sports personality TJ Manotoc.

"CelebrityDATcom" is being marketed as an "alternative celebrity-oriented magazine show," mainly on account of its time slot.

"We have a different slot, 9:30 p.m., on Thursdays," said Manotoc. "We're not aired on a weekend, unlike most talk shows. We're up against two dramas in the other channels. In that sense, it's an alternative."

De Leon said: "This is essentially a magazine-lifestyle show, not just a gossip show. It talks about anything and everything that's happening in the world. It may be foreign, it may be local. That makes us different."

"KIDScetera," IBC 13's "highly educational show designed for Filipino children," marks a return to active duty of celebrity mom Lotlot de Leon. The show has yet to get a time slot, but it has been slated to start airing in June.



LOTLOT de Leon with other members of "KIDScetera"

IBC 13 president and chief operating officer Renato Bello conceded that his network's programs were not really big money-earners, but he stressed that the company's "primary reason" right now was not to be a moneymaker.

Bello said it was already a relief that IBC 13

managed to restructure its debts and secure a P300-million loan to acquire new equipment, including OB vans that could help it improve its news coverage and compete with rivals ABS-CBN and GMA 7.

"In so far as the competition, we'd be honest," he said. "We are not competing with Channels 2 and 7. We want to create a niche of our own as an alternative television station."

"Channel 13 seeks to venture into new and innovative ways to come up with not only good and entertaining programs, but also solid and value-oriented programs," Bello added. "We know that for pragmatic reasons, most of our shows are not earning so much, but we continue to abide by our commitment to the public. That's the primary reason why we are here today."

Better position

Bello said IBC 13's strength remained in the areas of sports and entertainment.

"We continue to develop these areas, but slowly, although not at this point financially viable, we will continue to create innovative programs that will continue to inspire people," he said.

"We are marking a significant milestone once more in the life of IBC 13 not only because we're coming up with new shows. Channel 13 continues to face new challenges and difficulties, but we can honestly say that we are in a far better position than 17 years ago."

IBC 13 reported earlier that it had been able to settle P200 million worth of debts, although 20 percent of its shares were still the subject of a sequestration case pending before the Supreme Court.



DOLLY ANNE Carvajal (right), Angelu de Leon and TJ Manotoc of "CelebrityDATcom"

After taking care of her family, Regine now wants time for self

By Mary Ann Sta. Ana
Contributor

SHE LOOKS so good these days that people often wonder. Is she in love?

But Regine Velasquez would be the first to tell you that she's not in the throes of romance. It's all due to her positive attitude, she'd tell you.

The singer known as Asia's Songbird turned 33 last April 22, but she still has the same exuberance and optimism she's always had even as a "Bagong Kampeon" winner 17 years ago. Despite her extremely busy work schedules, she remains thrilled about her many projects. There's no danger of Regine becoming jaded and burnt out.

"I'm always excited about my work," she says. "Once I stop getting nervous and thrilled about my work, then I think I would have to retire."

Indeed, she is swamped with work. She has just wrapped up work on a new movie, "Pangarap Ko ang Ibigin Ka," and its soundtrack. She continues to host two TV shows, "S.O.P." and "Star for a Night."

She remains a force to reckon with in the live concert scene. The Valentine show, "Songbird Sings Legrand," and the summer spectacle, "Regine Velasquez and Martin Nievera 2003 World Tour" (Waterfront Hotel Cebu last May 2 and at the Araneta Coliseum tonight and tomorrow), have been the season's hottest tickets.

On top of all this, Regine also found the time to produce for other artists. In the works is the launching album of Opera soloist



FUN TIME is what Regine says she needs more of, like this playful shot with her famous father, "Mang" Gerry.

Zebedee Zuniga.

She also discovered a new career as a budding scriptwriter and has come up with concepts for her concerts and music videos as well as for her TV and movie projects. She is responsible for the story of "Pangako... Ikaw Lang," her second movie with Aga Muhlach; for her "Lobo" episode on "Maalaala Mo Kaya" for which she won a PMPC Star Awards for TV Best Single Performance by an Actress; and her recent GMA-7 tele-sine "Huling Yakap," with Dingdong Dantes.

For all these story ideas, she credits her "overactive, vivid

imagination."

"I've always had the passion to create stories ever since I was a kid," she owns up. "It's my biggest frustration, to be a scriptwriter."

With her countless awards and accolades as a singer, she is determined to go into fields and territories that she has not explored.

"I owe it to my audience to be constantly creative," she explains. "I should always give them something new, something different, something exciting."

In the past, she was driven by the desire to give a good life to her family.

"We were so poor," she recalls. "So poor we couldn't even buy a bottle of shampoo."

She can buy her own shampoo factory now if she wanted to, but Regine remains just as industrious. Whenever she goes back to the dream home that she built in Bulacan with her own blood, sweat, and tears, Regine couldn't help but wax sentimental.

"When I see it, I realize that my family is now okay," she says, "that I really don't need to work that hard and I can now take things easy. In fact, my parents keep telling me that."

"We may not be rich but we're comfortable. All my siblings have finished college. They have their own lives now. And I am so happy about that."

That is what she considers her greatest achievement so far, "that I was able to send all my siblings to school and to give my family a comfortable life."

One elusive goal still remains to be achieved.

"So now, I am trying to take care of myself more," she says. "I'm trying to lead my own life, to focus on myself more. That's why I keep saying I want to rest, I want to go out with friends and have fun."

She is thinking of traveling more, to Thailand, Singapore, and maybe Spain. Or maybe going back to school, where this high school graduate hopes to take up fine arts or creative writing.

"I'm working hard now because I am saving up for the things I want to buy," Regine says. "Whether it's a piece of property or a dream vacation, it's will be for me. Since my family is now doing well, I want to fulfill my personal dreams."

Natural affecting performances in 'Angels'

LAST Sunday night, we caught Cinema One's screening of Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's digital feature, "Angels." Aside from its other strengths, the film impressed us most with the high level and acutely natural quality of its performances. This, we told ourselves, is what good film acting should be about.

Gina Alajar and Noni Buencamino paced the rest of the cast with their right-on portrayals of a husband and wife team of blind masseurs. Unlike other TV-film actors who balk at deglamorizing themselves, Gina and Noni enthusiastically tried to look and act like the disadvantaged and "ordinary" characters they were portraying.

They went much farther than just looking and acting blind. Their performances were so textured and insightful that we also got to know their characters as parents, spouses, neighbors, etc.

Thus, the emotions they felt weren't limited to their sad lot as blind people who had to earn a living despite their disability. This spared the production from being bathetic or lugubrious, because its principal characters had more going for them than just their misery.

No wonder Gina and Noni agreed to play these roles in this small production. The characters they essay in "Angels" allow them to make full use of their range of skills and strengths as actors, much more than the support or cameo roles they play in "mainstream" movies.

The child actors who play their offspring are also gifted, natural and insightful performers. So, all in all, "Angels" can serve as a touchstone production that prospective actors of all ages can watch to learn how to act for the TV-film screens—the right way.

Ironically, "Angels" has never had a commercial run, so the general viewing public hasn't been given a chance to appreciate its virtues. That's why Cinema One should be thanked for making it possible for interested buffs to see the film. Perhaps a second screening can be scheduled next month? With more extensive publicity, so more people can make it a point to view it. We'd be more than happy to help out.

Movies they're making

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



JOHNNY Depp plays J.M. Barrie, the creator of Peter Pan, in "Neverland." No, Michael Jackson doesn't play Tinkerbell in the film!

In "Matchstick Men," Nicolas Cage portrays a con man whose style is decidedly cramped by the arrival of his teenage daughter.

Cattlemen face a corrupt lawman in "Open Range," Kevin Costner's latest directorial effort. Costner co-stars with Robert Duvall and Annette Bening.

Colin Farrell and Samuel L. Jackson play tactical officers in "S.W.A.T."

Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez topple "Gigli," a mob romance.

Mark Wahlberg and Charlize Theron star in "The Italian Job," a remake of the gold-heist caper that was a big hit in 1969.

Gene Hackman, Dustin Hoffman and John Cusack star in "The Runaway Jury," the film version of a John Grisham tale about shady dealings in the jury room.

A spy (Michael Douglas) and a foot doctor (Albert Brooks) are fathers of the bride and groom in "The Wedding Party."

In "Mystic River," Sean Penn, Tim Robbins and Kevin Bacon are cast as three men linked to a murder. Clint Eastwood directs.

And Julia Roberts plays an art history professor with modern ideas in "Mona Lisa Smile." Kirsten Dunst and Julia Stiles co-star.

'Matrix Reloaded' trailer clicks with viewers

PEOPLE who watch the current hit "X-2" get an extra treat with the screening during intermission of the long trailer of "Matrix Reloaded." This is a clever marketing move, because the "X-Men" and "Matrix" films cater to pretty much the same audience.

The new "Matrix" trailer is so visually potent and interesting that quite a number of "X-2" viewers will now want to see the new "Matrix" sequels when it plays in town.

Kris may run vs Alma in Parañaque

From page C1

volubility and glibness, her penchant for making off-the-cuff remarks that nearly always put her in trouble. She said they had a particularly heated fight over her remark that she would want a one-night stand with handsome and sexy matinee idol Piolo Pascual.

"It was a joke," she explained. But he reportedly said people would get different ideas about such a controversial remark.

As for her former romance with Philip Salvador, another married actor, she said, "We outgrew each other."

Needing acceptance

But marriage remains a dim prospect, as Marquez's marriage with Alma has yet to be annulled. Kris said she has avoided thinking about it because "what if it never comes?"

"I'm like every woman," she said. "I want to be married, I want a family. Gusto ko na mag-ing acceptable sa society. Gusto ko na malagay sa tahimik, at matanggap ng mommy ko. I

guess I'm realistic enough to know na hintayin na lang natin. Kung darating, praise God. Kung hindi, baka may ibang nakalaan sa aming dalawa (I want to be accepted by society. I want my mom to accept me. Let's wait for it to happen. If it happens, praise God. If not, maybe there are other things reserved for the two of us)."

She revealed things could have been different if she had answered an important phone call back when she was turning 18. She explained that on the eve of her 18th birthday, "somebody very special was calling to inform me personally about some life's changes (that would happen to him)," she said. She didn't answer the call. She said she got another chance to be close to the man later, but "I didn't go for it. Because I was scared."

Kris said another chance at romance with the man is remote since he is "settled down and happily married."

Although she did not name the person, those in the know believe he is basketball superstar Alvin Patrimonio, whom she calls in many interviews as the love of her life.

Despite the disappointments and disgrace she brings to her much revered mother, former President Corason Aquino, Kris said she believes she is a credit to the powerful family.

"Sa dinami-dami ng mga anak ng mga presidente na sumubok maging sikat, I'm the one who's here," she said. "And I think I am the most successful. I think I have carried on the name Aquino among the masa. Ako yung bumuhay sa alala at pangalan ng mommy at daddy ko (I am the one who keeps the legacy and name of my parents alive)."

She said her misadventures make the Aquino family human.

"That's why they've been given a daughter like me," she said. "Or the family would be too perfect without me."

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2 TILL THERE WAS YOU	GUARANTEED SEATS BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE 12:05, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:20, 11:30	X-MEN 2 12:05, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:35	2 X-MEN 2 12:05, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:20, 11:30	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
3 X-MEN 2	4 PINOCCHIO	5 JOHNNY ENGLISH	3 X-MEN 2	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND
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FPJ: My new movie . . .

From page C3

said his birthday wish was for FPJ to run for president. He said his friend, whom he also called "Erap," would be "unbeatable."

But a source close to FPJ said not even Estrada could convince the action king to run in 2004.

Yesterday, asked to comment about Estrada's wish, FPJ said: "Running cannot be given as a birthday gift. It concerns the country."

FPJ visited Estrada at the VMMC on April 14, Holy Monday, a few days before the unseated official's birthday. FPJ gifted his friend with a jacket and brought him snacks.

FPJ's actress-wife, Susan Roces, has been quiet about her husband's political plans.

FPJ showed up at the Tuesday night press con for "Pakners" not in his trademark denim jacket and pants but in a colorful Hawaiian floral shirt which he also used in the movie.

"This is not a (political) strategy," he said of his new look. "Roco and (Manila Mayor Lito) Atienza have been doing this. I wore this today only for a change."

The press con was held at the Acaia Restaurant in Greenhills, San Juan, owned by Estrada's son, former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Ejercito.

FPJ will be busy not to campaign but to promote "Pakners," which also stars billiards champion Efran "Bata" Reyes.

Ayen vs Ballet Philippines

AYEN Munji-Laurel had wanted to re-stage the multimillion-peso production of "Rama at Sita," which she had also produced at the UP Theater in 1999 with a whopping budget of P40 million, as her own musical version of the Indian epic "Ramayana." But Ballet Philippines, the producers of the original "Rama Hari," also based on the "Ramayana," stopped her.

The Ballet Philippines production of "Rama Hari" was directed by Alice Reyes and staged at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Ayen also



SHE'D RATHER sing than do movies, says Ayen Munji-Laurel.

starred in it and played Sita.

Ayen's second "Rama at Sita" was supposed to go onstage in July, produced by her own outfit, SK Entertainment. SK stands for "sari kultur," Indonesian for "essence of culture."

Ayen said her production company had problems with the rights to "Rama at Sita," so they had to postpone the re-staging.

It was in "Rama at Sita" where the romance of Ayen and Franco Laurel, who was in the cast, bloomed. They tied the knot on March 18, 2001 and now have a six-month-old daughter, Angia.

Franco starred with Ariel Rivera, Chiqui Pineda, Lani Misalucha and Jaya in the first "Rama at Sita."

The exquisite and colorful original costumes created by Patis Tesoro have been preserved in Ayen's office. "Sometimes, we rent

them out," says Ayen.

With the hitch in the second staging of "Rama at Sita," Ayen has decided to produce another original musical, which is now in the works and will be staged next year. She has also conceptualized another big concert, "One," featuring 30 artists singing inspirational songs, slated for November.

"It's similar to 'One for the Soul' that we did at the Folk Arts Theater also in 1999, with Martin Nievera, Jaya and other singers," Ayen says. "That was after 'Rama at Sita.' It gives me a different kind of fulfillment when people believe in the kind of shows that I do."

Ayen, who took up music at UST Conservatory and theater arts in UP Diliman, has revived her solo singing career with an album of original songs and live shows. After giving birth to daughter Angia, she started doing live performances again. She recently had a successful two-night concert at Tavern on the Square in Greenbelt, Makati.

On May 17, Ayen will go solo again, this time at Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila, "with numbers which are mostly show-stoppers," she says.

With Danny Marshall of Powerdance and Cecile Martinez and Ayi of Whiplash, Ayen will do dance numbers choreographed by Andy Alviz.

She prepared the lineup for the concert, which has Marc Lopez as musical director. Stage direction is by Marlon Rivera. Included in her repertoire are "Am I the Same Girl," "This is My Life," "Game of Love," "Come Together," "Meadowlark," "Here Comes the Sun" and "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?"

Her guests are Agot Isidro and Janno Gibbs.

Ayen will wear costumes by Joji Lloren. Her backup singers will be dressed by Maxie Cinco.

Ayen has received offers to star in TV soaps, but as a *contravida*.

"I'm not ready to play a villain," she says. "I'd rather concentrate on singing."

DID YOU KNOW...

THIS fortyish still-sexy actress, the star of many sexy hits in her younger days and a current member of the cast of a *teleserye*, recently checked into a five-star hotel for a few days of rest. When it was checkout time, she had to call the actor-son of one of her exes for help. She didn't have enough money to pay the hotel bills. She is said to be bent on running for public office in the next elections, which will require much, much more money than her hotel bills have cost her.



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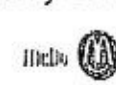
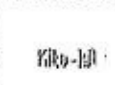
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OPENS MAY 14



LLAMANZARES

Jinky goes 'Full Blast'

JINKY Llamanzares is popularly known as a dynamic performer and a "Miss Saigon" alumna, having played the role of "Gigi" for three straight years without an alternate at the Princess of Wales Theater in Toronto, Canada.

SHOW TIME

This year, Jinky resolves to continue with the show biz niche she has created and do more starting with her solo concert, "Full Blast," at 9 tonight at Hard Rock Café.

Directed by Angie Magbanua, with Toti Fuentes as musical director, "Full Blast" has two male singers as guests—Luke Mejares and Lance Raymundo.

"Full Blast" is presented by Hard Rock Café and Play and Display, with Miladay Jewels, Canadian Opportunities Unlimited Inc., CCMG Diagnostic Center, Joey@92.3 Rhythms and K 91.5 FM as sponsors.

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HOW DO you get 16 famous women open up and share their most private thoughts and feelings?

GMA-7 and its partner producer, Dove, know how. For 13 weeks since the launch of the woman's lifestyle show "All About You," show host Lucy Torres Gomez successfully entered the private spaces of television and movie celebrities and asked them intimate questions about their personal lives, and viewers get to share them for half an hour every Sunday morning.

What women want and what they do to express their feelings about themselves is the essence of "All About You." The first season's last episode is airing on Sunday, May 11, which is also Mother's Day.

The final episode promises a surprise guest.

In previous episodes, single mother Aiko Melendez brought her son Andrei to share with viewers their very close relationship. "I make time for Andrei even with my 24-hour on-call schedule," said Aiko. "When I am with Andrei, that is his time and no one can take that away from us."

She and her son have found bonding pleasure cooking together.

SHOW TIME

Michelle van Eimeren said of her relationship with her elder daughter. "We do pottery together. I guess she picked up my newly discovered interest in creative work."

Maritoni Fernandez allowed her daughter Alexia to develop her own sense of style when she realized that the young fashionista was attempting to be an adventurous dresser. "It's hard not to meddle, but it's better to let your daughters experiment," she said. "Eventually they learn the best way to dress that suits them."

How do they deal with stress? Gelli de Belen and Aiko Melendez said they lock themselves up in the bathroom to get away from it all.

"All I need is just a few moments to myself, when I can think, sometimes even pray," shared Gelli. Michelle and Gelli surround themselves with friends to relieve them of stress.

Amy Austria, Imee Marcos and Aiko discovered they have a knack for cooking. Dawn Zulueta, in her laid-back life in Davao, tinkers with accessories as a business. Pops Fernandez demonstrated how she designs and puts together the clothes she sells under the label Pipay.



PIPAY DESIGNER. Pops Fernandez



BATHROOM RETREAT. Gelli de Belen

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"UPROARIOUS, OUTRAGEOUS AND IRRESISTIBLE!"

Jim Svejda, KNX/CBS RADIO

Steve Martin Queen Latifah

Bringing down the House



Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

THEATRE MALL

CINEMA 1

X-MEN 2

11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

PG-13

CINEMA 2

BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

11:40, 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40

PG-13

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MAY 16 & 17, 2003 "KUH HIT'S BACK" (Kuh Ledesma) 9:00PM
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Kate Hudson Matthew McConaughey

How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days

OPENS MAY 21

Aranea Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALMALL CINEMPLEX	
Ali 1	XEREX
Ali 2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
Ali 3	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
Ali 4	X-MEN 2
Ali 5	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUS MIND
Ali 6	BAYARAN
Ali 7	JOHNNY ENGLISH

FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS

| Farmers 1 | X-MEN 2 |
| Farmers 2 | XEREX |

ARANEJA COLISEUM

MAY 9 & 10	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
MAY 16	ALLAN K CONCERT
MAY 17	NORA ALINDOR CONCERT

ELEPHANT WORLD

FUN RIDES	START
TAGADISCO	4PM
VIKING SHIP	(DAILY)

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAPATAN MO LAHIT KO
TIMES	SPY - LEGEND OF DANCING E

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	PUNILA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	PUNILA
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

| A | TILL THERE WAS YOU |
| B | BAYARAN |

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-2	BAYARAN
CINEMA-3	XEREX
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JOHNNY ENGLISH
CINEMA-6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-7	A MAN APART
CINEMA-8	PUNILA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-11 (DTS)	BRINGING THE HOUSE DOWN
CINEMA-12	PINOCCHIO
CINEMA-14	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-15	CONFESSION OF DANGEROUS MIND

LORES

| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	DIE ANTIHEK GAY
CINEMA 2	BAHAY
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LIPS

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SEL DA

The mother-in-law...

From page C8

based in Chicago, Illinois, would sometimes send money for Dely's medical expenses.

The Movie Workers' Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund) said it has been giving Dely financial assistance once a year for three years now, just as it helps a hundred other members.

Dely eats very little now, Alma said. Her diet consists mostly of bread, cheese and fruits, and very little rice and meat. "Three tablespoons of rice is enough for her," Alma shared. "She loves bread, though. Sometimes, she can eat a whole butter sandwich."

"Marsha (Nida) was such a good person," Dely said. "I couldn't believe that someone would want her dead."

Nida, then a member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), was found stabbed to death at the parking lot of the old MTRCB building in San Juan. Her killer or killers have not been identified.

Memories

The brutal killing of Nida reminded her of the murder of her own son Alfonso, the father of Alma, 19 years ago. "It hurt me so much because he was my only son," she said.

According to Alma, a drunken neighbor shot her father. The killer remains at large. The family decided not to pursue the case in court because witnesses were too scared to testify, she said.

Dely was already 83 when she appeared in the movie "Matinik na Bading," starring Leo Martinez and Andrew E.

"She was still strong then but she was already having a hard time memorizing her lines," recalled Alma.

Now there are no more lines to memorize for Dely Atay-Atayan. But if she could, she would love to remember, and sing again, her favorite songs.

MATRIX RELOADED

05.15.03

MATRIX RELOADED

ENTERTAINMENT

The mother-in-law we loved to laugh at

By Marinel R. Cruz

KAYA IKAW, John, magsumikap ka!

One night every week for 17 years until 1989, the country's favorite television show ended with that loud nagging line, delivered with ringing aplomb by the character known as Doña Delilah, also known as Dely Atay-Atayan, while the show's theme, Michael Jackson's "Can't Stop Till You Get Enough" played in the background.

Viewers couldn't have enough of Dely Atay-Atayan (real name, Adelaida Fernando), the country's most famous mother-in-law, the bane in the life of John Puruntong (Dolphy), husband of her beloved only child Marsha (the late Nida Blanca) in "John en Marsha." Although her daughter married the jobless John, Doña Delilah was incredibly rich. When money was required, she liked to tell her maid Matutina (Evelyn Bontogon) to go sweep peso bills off the floor.

Today, Dely, the big, fat, loud mother-in-law of yore, is 90, small, and bones-and-skin thin. She says she has lived a full life and is not asking for anything more—except maybe a visit from the people she treated like family, such as Dolphy, Matutina and Maricel Soriano, who played her grandchild in the long-running sitcom that spawned several movies.

"I have not seen them in a long while," Dely told INQUIRER Entertainment. "I hope to spend time



DELY then and now.



with them even for just a while." Despite her age, Dely says she still dreams of performing—as a singer.

She, after all, began her career as a *kundi-man* singer at the Palace Theater in Sta. Cruz, Manila, and she toured the country with a *bodabil* troupe from 1930 to 1934.

"Singing is my true love," she

said. "It paved the way for me to enter show biz. Though I'm having a hard time recalling the lyrics, I'd gladly sing my favorite songs to anyone who'd ask. I love singing too much to ever get tired of it."

She said her father, painter and composer Amado Fernando, and her mother, singer Carmen Marquez, influ-

enced her music. But although singing was her ticket to show business, she became more known as a comedienne after appearing in comedy movies like "Lakambini" opposite her late husband Alejandro Villegas, screen name Andoy Balunbalunan. The widowed Dely later married Catalino Cruz, popularly known then as Jockey Tenoy.

She was a voice talent on radio shows such as "Tang-tarang-tang," "Gabi ng Shell" and "Ay Neneng." She also performed as part of the Ancient Fox quartet with Pugak, Lopito and Doro de los Ojos, all three now long gone.

Even during World War II, she continued performing in comedy skits at the Life Theater in Quiapo and the Manila Grand Opera House in Sta. Cruz under the direction of Lou Salvador Sr.

From the '70s to the '80s, she concentrated on "John en Marsha."

Weak but okay

In 1997, Dely was hospitalized due to pneumonia, according to her granddaughter Alma. A year later, she was hospitalized again because of high blood pressure and severe stomach ache. Alma said her grandma was also diagnosed with gallstones, but doctors refused to operate because she was already 85 and might not be able to fully recuperate from the operation.

"Matanda na kasi ako kaya mahina na (I'm weak because I'm already old)," said the strong-willed woman who made mil-



OLD AND WEAK but okay, Dely says.

ERIK ARAZAS

lions laughed for 17 years. During the entire interview, she lay in bed. "But I feel okay."

But Alma said her grandmother's health was far from being okay. "Her doctors said her gallstone disease was already serious," the granddaughter explained. "But they don't want to operate because it might do her more harm than good. They said at her age, she might lose all of her memory because she would need anesthesia for the operation."

Alma said Dely and her first husband Andoy owned two houses in Quezon City. One of the houses was burned while the oth-

er was sold.

Because no one looked after Dely's finances when she was still earning, she was not able to save up for her retirement, according to her granddaughter.

"We don't know what happened to all her properties," Alma said.

Alma said she and her four sisters contribute money for the medical expenses of their grandmother and their mother Carmen, now 71, who had hysterectomy a few years ago.

Bread lover

Dely's sister Lulu Molina, now

MOTHER/C7



WITH Dolphy, her "son-in-law" on "John en Marsha"

Why men and women are different.

The fact that women can speak over 7000 words a day, and men listen with only one side of the brain, is just one of many differences between the sexes. Men and women have different needs which require specific ways of dealing with them.

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One-A-Day for Women has the right combination of essential nutrients to meet the special needs of women. And because loss of bone mass is more frequent in women, it has calcium to promote good bone health to fight

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One-A-Day for Men contains the antioxidants Vitamins A, C and E to help prevent cell damage. It has the right amount of folic acid to help reduce the risk of atherosclerosis. It also contains other nutrients necessary to meet the Recommended Dietary Allowance

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Bayer HealthCare



A woman speaks 7000 words a day.

a man listens with only one side of the brain.

Men and women aren't the same. That's why One-A-Day Special Wellness Formulas are doctor-recommended for the specific needs of men and women. Because there is a difference.



LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE



**Donita
Rose's
pre-wedding
party**
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**Australian
fashion week**
page F2



Working-mom chic

FOR MOST working moms, attending the first PTA meeting is a fashion moment unlike any other. It marks, after all, the end of an era, the end of dressing entirely for themselves and dressing for their man.

Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, whose pre-motherhood uniform consisted of white Hanes shirts, denim shorts and Doc Martens, knew she couldn't make a style faux pas when her big PTA to-do came. Not just because she was one of the country's most popular fashion figures, but more because her dress now represents Sabina Gonzalez, her 6-year-old *unica* hija.

"I can't remember exactly what I wore but I made a mental note that I should dress appropriately," Tweetie says.

Actress Snooky Serna has a better memory. She was so excited she wore a green tunic blouse and had green heels on.

"Looking back, *na isip ko, mukha pala akong dahon nung araw na 'yun*," says the soap-opera star, who claims she was never a big fashion fan.

But never mind that. She was just glad
WORKING-MOM/D4

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Next Friday Night



The Laugh Lounge
at GM AutoWorld Shaw
May 16 • Friday • 7 pm



Urban twist to the Western look

By Cheche V. Moral

WESTERN jean brand Wrangler is herding urban cowboys and cowgirls to experience its new collection of fashion-forward jeans and apparel. And with hardly the use of a lasso.

Wrangler presented its Spring/Summer 2003 Collection during Philippine Fashion Week at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Known worldwide for its rugged cowboy image, it is upping and broadening its appeal by veering toward an edgier, more contemporary and updated look. The move is quite a departure from Wrangler's no-nonsense workwear image.

But like other labels with once-staid and restricted image, Wrangler wants a bigger chunk of the denim-buying market by responding to consumers' dynamically changing attitude toward fashion. Denim, after all, has transcended streetwear; it has become, even for celebrities, a fashion must-have that can take you from the street to a chic evening revelry.

"This is the global direction of Wrangler," explains Edward Ang, president of Everbright Apparel Corp., the Philippine distributor of Wrangler. "The total look is no longer too western. It has become contemporary urban."

This season, it introduces the broken twill denim, which allows for various grungy finishes. The new styles have surface details and different heavy washes.

Proud of its legacy as maker of durable and high-quality jeans, Wrangler promises the broken twill denim fabric is even more comfortable and just as hard-wearing.

Upbeat and young

Ang admits Wrangler's new look is not as cutting-edge as another popular American brand, but "since we have added the fashion element, Wrangler has become an exciting alternative to everyday dressing."

Adds Everbright Apparel Corp. GM Carlos Robes Jr., "Wrangler's new look is not traditional but not too edgy. It just became more upbeat and fashion-forward."

While for many decades Wrangler has appealed only to more mature, and primarily male, market, it is now attempting to lure the younger crowd, and women, too. Robes says

Wrangler introduces the broken twill denim with grungy details, new styles and different washes



CREAM OF THE CROPPED. Black cord jeans, logo tee and short-sleeve shirt on him; cropped yellow tank, cropped denim jacket and mini on her



CRIMSON TIDE. Denim cut-offs and checked long-sleeve shirt on her; loose jeans, cotton tee and cotton twill long-sleeve shirt on him



DENIM MANIA. Faded jeans and vests with frayed sleeves



LOOSE BLUES. Boldly printed summer shirt with denim shorts



men account for 70 percent of Wrangler's clientele.

With the addition of sexy cotton tops and the trendy super-low hip-hugger jeans, it hopes to turn more fashion-savvy women into Wrangler converts. At the same time, Robes says, the brand hopes to maintain the loyalty of longtime Wrangler users. Thus, it has kept familiar details like the famous stitched "W" logo.

One of the top three mass-market denim brands in the country, Wrangler's top sellers are its denim and colored jeans, woven shirts and chinos.

"It's a premium brand but with value for money," Ang says. No pair of jeans is priced over P1,000.

With outlets in major department stores, its concept store in Glorietta 1 recently renovated—and three more stores to open this year, Wrangler is sure bent on roping the fashion herd.

URBAN GUERRILLA. Khaki cargo shorts and gray three-quarter-sleeve shirt

WAVE
89.1

FASHION RADIO

May 9, 2003
Eastwood City

airwalk
outland
MALDITA
ELLE

LEONARDO DADIVAS
fashion

Flip

MANILA
PAVILION

FitnessFirst

Woman
Today

Select Comfort

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER



A BAGEL dish specialty by Makati Shangri-La, with lots of ebi garnished with fresh lemon. Entwined are Bulgari B.zero1 watches for ladies, in lilac, green and beige straps. A yellow silk scarf by Bulgari enhances the plate.

Bagels and baubles

SEVEN fashionable and confident professionals handpicked their favorite bagels and baubles and watches recently when Bulgari 6750 hosted a cool, cozy indoor summer party.

The Bulgari clients included businessman Rajan Sadhwani and wife Apples Aberin, PDI fashion columnist and image consultant for Emphasis Salon; the Jaafar sisters—Mindanao Rep. Soraya Jaafar and entrepreneur sisters Paricia, Aisha and Janet Jaafar Felizardo; and Paco Magsaysay.

Makati Shangri-La Hotel's catering, led by executive chef Christopher Romine and executive sous chef Gene del Prado, served more luscious afternoon delights.

The guests were amused to discover Bulgari pieces that made lovely dining companions and how brilliantly diverse styles could converse.



A DELICIOUS bagel dish with ebi and strawberry is creatively sprinkled with Bulgari B.zero1 bracelets and rings in yellow gold.

Timepieces combine luxury and functionality



WHETHER you'll be soaking up the sights in Europe, deep-sea diving in Palawan, or rushing into the inevitable job hunt, take your TechnoMarine with you.

With its unique color and materials, to the way it functions both underwater and under pressure, TechnoMarine has become the timepiece of the new generation. Its innovative designs symbolize versatility and individuality.

TechnoMarine's XS Lady boasts of a gel strap embedded with 36 white diamonds. Its stainless steel case rim is surrounded with 88 full-cut white diamonds and its face sports eight full-cut diamonds on the dial. This is a great diving watch as it is water-resistant to 330 feet.

The TM Pave watch's rotating bezel is covered with 136 full-cut diamonds arranged in a bead setting while its pave dial is embedded with 143 full-cut diamonds.

TechnoMarine's Butterfly Pavé watch has 184 full-cut white diamonds and a steel dial with silver numerals, but is actually strong and enduring. Sapphire crystal ensures scratch-proof use. It is also resistant to water and air pressure, thermal heights and chemical treatments.

The Alpha Roman series is a sporty yet sophisticated design that reflects the adventurous spirit that resides in all of the world's greatest movers and shakers. Equipped with state-of-the-art Swiss ETA G10 movement, it has a carbon fiber dial with Arabic numerals. Its stainless steel case is resistant to water mid air pressure, thermal height and chemical

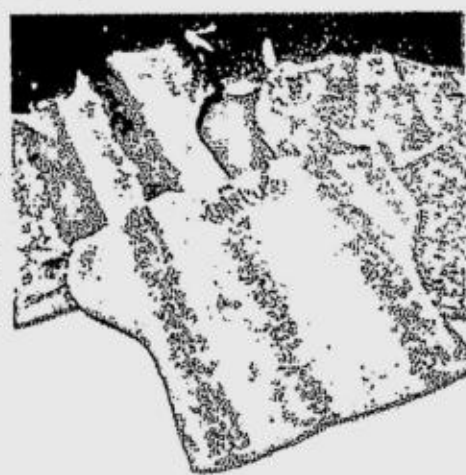
treatment. It is also water resistant up to 200 meters.

TechnoMarine's TechnoSinare XS Magnum's oversized square case with avant-garde lines, square mini-dials and stylized numerals reflect a sophisticated image. It also has chronograph and date indicator functions. The stainless steel case makes it resistant to water and air pressure, thermal heights and chemical treatments. It is also water resistant up to 330 feet.

TechnoMarine's TechnoLady Chrono Pave's dial is made of pink mother of pearl and has colored Arabic numerals. The unidirectional rotating bezel is set with 128 full cut white diamonds. It's resistant to 660 feet.

The TechnoSquare Chronograph boasts of a stainless steel case that's resistant to water and air pressure, thermal heights or chemical treatment. Each timepiece comes with one alligator or leather band and one gel strap. It's water-resistant to 330 feet.

TechnoMarine and TechnoSport are available at the following outlets: TechnoMarine Flagship Store in Greenbelt 3 Mall, Ayala Center, Makati, tel. 757-3975, telefax 7573976; Rafael Jewellery at 2/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall Edsa, Mandaluyong, tel. 636-3398 telefax 636-3399; Rafael Jewellery, Mezzanine level, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, tel. 813-8213/8501; My Diamond, 2/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, tel. 757-1086; Time Plus-75, G/F, Greenhills Theater Mall, tel. 721-7868; Washington, Rockwell R1 Level, Power Plant Mall, Makati, tel. 898-2288.



WIDE CHOICE of Mom's Day gifts at Robinsons Department Store (RDS), including bags, shoes, blouses, makeup kits, mugs, maternity clothes, scented candles, a Zen fountain and aromatherapy set.

Skin whiteners in 3 kits



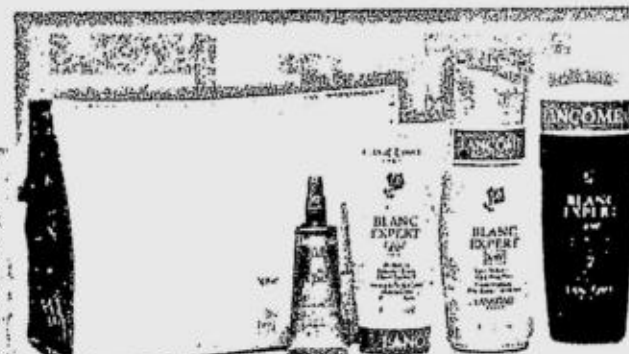
WHEN it comes to skin whitening that needs special attention, Lancôme has the answers.

It has come out with a set that it claims to be the perfect regimen for the most translucent and healthy fair skin.

Lancôme's Blanc Expert XWII Value Kit provides the answers to special skin whitening requirements. The set, P4,065 (a P5,679 product value), includes the Blanc Expert XW Mousse (30ml) to gently remove make-up and impurities, Blanc Expert XW Clarifying Lotion 2 (50ml) to lighten skin, Blanc Expert XWII Spot Corrector (30ml) to lighten complexion and correct and prevent brown spots, and Blanc Expert XW Hydrating Fluid (15ml) to lighten skin visibly and eliminate down brown spots.

Lancôme offers the Trial Kit for every purchase of two makeup products. The kit consists of Blanc Expert XW Clarifying Lotion 2 (5ml), Blanc Expert Spot Corrector (5ml), Blanc Expert Hydrating Fluid (5ml) and UV Expert Extra Large Double Protection PA+++ SPF 50 (5ml) that provides expert protection with high resistance UVA and UVB filters to preserve a clear and uniform complexion.

Lancôme has conveniently packaged a family of products in one great priced set. The Blanc Expert XWII Starter Kit available for P1,995 (a P4,200 product value) includes the Blanc Expert XW Mousse that eliminates makeup gently and dislodges impurities, Blanc Expert XW Clarifying Lotion 2 that lightens skin, Blanc Expert Spot Corrector 15ml that lightens complexion markedly and corrects and prevents brown spots, and Blanc Expert Hydrating Fluid 50ml that lightens skin visibly and eliminates brown spots.



Show Mom how much you care

PFIZER Loving Care (PLC) pays tribute to mothers by offering tips on how to baby moms on Mother's Day. These include gift ideas, recipes and activities for kids.

Gift ideas

1. Restore a treasured old photo and give it to her in an attractive antique frame.
2. Buy tickets to her favorite film or concert, or just spend the whole day window-shopping.
3. If your mother has a collection, give her something she will enjoy adding to it.
4. Gather all your siblings and assemble a Mother's Day scrapbook. Fill it with photos and anecdotes about your special childhood memories with

Mom.

5. Treat her to a relaxing spa spree, then take her out to lunch at her favorite restaurant or take her out for tea or coffee.

6. Fill out a pre-made certificate or create your own with your computer and frame it. Present it to her as "certificate of honor" for being the best mother in the world.

7. Give Mom breakfast in bed coupled with a long-stemmed red rose and a card.

Activities for kids

1. Memorize a poem dedicated to Mom and deliver it to her.
2. Serenade Mom with a song.
3. Paint a plant pot and re-pot a petunia into the pot.

Svenson celebrates 22 years of more hair, more confidence

IF YOU think hair loss affects your looks alone, think again. The truth is, losing the fullness of your crowning glory will also make you feel less confident about your appearance and self-image. You can't help but think that you'll look much older than your real age. Having hair loss also affects the impression that other people have of you. It's no wonder that some men and women become less active in their social life so that others won't notice their hair loss problem. But how much longer will you allow hair loss to affect your self-esteem and even your social life?

Svenson International understands your concerns and the importance of having hair again. Now on its 22nd year in the Philippines, the expert hair and scalp center is part of an international network with more than 90 branches worldwide and with over 40 years of expertise in the field of hair recovery.

What makes Svenson the preferred choice for many men and women? It provides innovative hair-loss and baldness solutions ranging from its highly effective treatments that stop the main cause of hair loss to the most advanced non-surgical hair replacement technology. The best part about Svenson is that you not only experience hair recovery, you'll also enjoy the confidence of having more hair again.

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Bernardo Bernardo and Eva Abesamis attest to Svenson's effective hair recovery services.

ADVT.

Timepieces combine luxury and functionality



WHETHER you'll be soaking up the sights in Europe, deep-sea diving in Palawan, or rushing into the inevitable job hunt, take your TechnoMarine with you.

With its unique color and materials, to the way it functions both underwater and under pressure, TechnoMarine has become the timepiece of the new generation. Its innovative designs symbolize versatility and individuality.

TechnoMarine's XS Lady boasts of a gel strap embedded with 36 white diamonds. Its stainless steel case rim is surrounded with 88 full-cut white diamonds and its face sports eight full-cut diamonds on the dial. This is a great diving watch as it is water-resistant to 330 feet.

The TM Pave watch's rotating bezel is covered with 136 full-cut diamonds arranged in a bead setting while its pave dial is embedded with 143 full-cut diamonds.

TechnoMarine's Butterfly Pavé watch has 184 full-cut white diamonds and a steel dial with silver numerals, but is actually strong and enduring. Sapphire crystal ensures scratch-proof use. It is also resistant to water and air pressure, thermal heights and chemical treatments.

The Alpha Roman series is a sporty yet sophisticated design that reflects the adventurous spirit that resides in all of the world's greatest movers and shakers. Equipped with state-of-the-art Swiss ETA G10 movement, it has a carbon fiber dial with Arabic numerals. Its stainless steel case is resistant to water mid air pressure, thermal height and chemical

treatment. It is also water resistant up to 200 meters.

TechnoMarine's TechnoSinare XS Magnum's oversized square case-with avant-garde lines, square mini-dials and stylized numerals reflect a sophisticated image. It also has chronograph and date indicator functions. The stainless steel case makes it resistant to water and air pressure, thermal heights and chemical treatments. It is also water resistant up to 330 feet.

TechnoMarine's TechnoLady Chrono Pave's dial is made of pink mother of pearl and has colored Arabic numerals. The unidirectional rotating bezel is set with 128 full cut white diamonds. It's resistant to 660 feet.

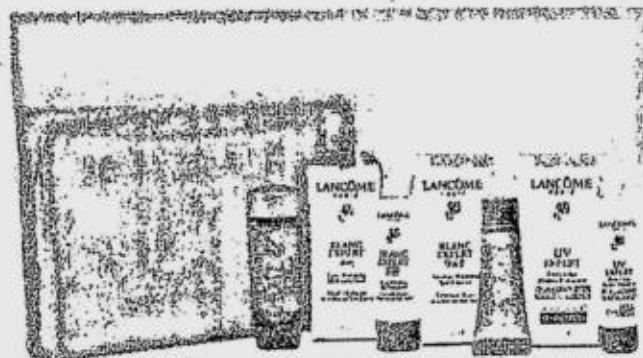
The TechnoSquare Chronograph boasts of a stainless steel case that's resistant to water and air pressure, thermal heights or chemical treatment. Each timepiece comes with one alligator or leather band and one gel strap. It's water-resistant to 330 feet.

TechnoMarine and TechnoSport are available at the following outlets: TechnoMarine Flagship Store in Greenbelt 3 Mall, Ayala Center, Makati, tel. 757-3975, telefax 7573976; Rafael Jewellery at 2/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall Edsa, Mandaluyong, tel. 636-3398 telefax 636-3399; Rafael Jewellery, Mezzanine level, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, tel. 813-8213/8501; My Diamond, 2/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, tel. 757-1086; Time Plus-75, G/F, Greenhills Theater Mall, tel. 721-7868; Washington, Rockwell R1 Level, Power Plant Mall, Makati, tel. 898-2288.



WIDE CHOICE of Mom's Day gifts at Robinsons Department Store (RDS), including bags, shoes, blouses, makeup kits, mugs, maternity clothes, scented candles, a Zen fountain and aromatherapy set.

Skin whiteners in 3 kits



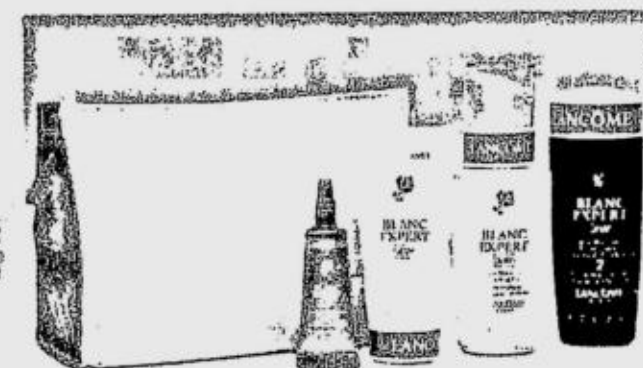
WHEN it comes to skin whitening that needs special attention, Lancome has the answers.

It has come out with a set that it claims to be the perfect regimen for the most translucent and healthy fair skin.

Lancome's Blanc Expert XWII Value Kit provides the answers to special skin whitening requirements. The set, P4,065 (a P5,679 product value), includes the Blanc Expert XW Mousse (30ml) to gently remove make-up and impurities, Blanc Expert XW Clarifying Lotion 2 (50ml) to lighten skin, Blanc Expert XWII Spot Corrector (30ml) to lighten complexion and correct and prevent brown spots, and Blanc Expert XW Hydrating Fluid (15ml) to lighten skin visibly and eliminate down brown spots.

Lancome offers the Trial Kit for every purchase of two makeup products. The kit consists of Blanc Expert XW Clarifying Lotion 2 (5ml), Blanc Expert Spot Corrector (5ml), Blanc Expert Hydrating Fluid (5ml) and UV Expert Extra Large Double Protection PA+++ SPF 50 (5ml) that provides expert protection with high resistance UVA and UVB filters to preserve a clear and uniform complexion.

Lancome has conveniently packaged a family of products in one great priced set. The Blanc Expert XWII Starter Kit available for P1,995 (a P4,200 product value) includes the Blanc Expert XW Mousse that eliminates makeup gently and dislodges impurities, Blanc Expert XW Clarifying Lotion 2 that lightens skin, Blanc Expert Spot Corrector 15ml that lightens complexion markedly and corrects and prevents brown spots, and Blanc Expert Hydrating Fluid 50ml that lightens skin visibly and eliminates brown spots.



Show Mom how much you care

PFIZER Loving Care (PLC) pays tribute to mothers by offering tips on how to baby moms on Mother's Day. These include gift ideas, recipes and activities for kids.

Gift ideas

1. Restore a treasured old photo and give it to her in an attractive antique me.
2. Buy tickets to her favorite film or concert, or just spend the whole day window-shopping.
3. If your mother has a collection, give her something she will enjoy adding to it.
4. Gather all your siblings and assemble a Mother's Day scrapbook. Fill it with photos and anecdotes about your special childhood memories with

Mom.

5. Treat her to a relaxing spa spree, then take her out to lunch at her favorite restaurant or take her out for tea or coffee.

6. Fill out a pre-made certificate or create your own with your computer and frame it. Present it to her as "certificate of honor" for being the best mother in the world.

7. Give Mom breakfast in bed coupled with a long-stemmed red rose and a card.

Activities for kids

1. Memorize a poem dedicated to Mom and deliver it to her.
2. Serenade Mom with a song.
3. Paint a plant pot and re-pot a petunia into the pot.

Svenson celebrates 22 years of more hair, more confidence

IF YOU think hair loss affects your looks alone, think again. The truth is, losing the fullness of your crowning glory will also make you feel less confident about your appearance and self-image. You can't help but think that you'll look much older than your real age. Having hair loss also affects the impression that other people have of you. It's no wonder that some men and women become less active in their social life so that others won't notice their hair loss problem. But how much longer will you allow hair loss to affect your self-esteem and even your social life?

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ADVT

ON TWEETIE:
Light blue
sleeveless V-neck
top by Armani
Exchange, white
denim shirt by
Armani Exchange,
mini-signature
hobo bag by
Coach, sitar
necklace and
earrings by Anne
Klein

Moms have
to work
hard for
the
fashion,
too

Working-mom chic

From page D1

Samantha, now 10, the elder of her two daughters, remembered her presence more than the green dress and the big rectangular shades that finished her mom's look.

On the beat

For Tweetie and Snooky, the transition to motherhood style was like dressing up for a career shift. But for Ces Oreña-Drilon, it was her career as a young news reporter in the '80s that dictated the direction of her wardrobe as a young working mom.

"My clothes were just mostly about functionality then, because I was always on the field," recalls Ces, who is now on top of the ABS-CBN News Channel's Business Group aside from hosting the top-rating show "Pipol."

Bringing up four boys (with husband Rock Drilon, the artist) born just around two years apart from each other, Ces in those early years couldn't care less about the style police, although she's known among her colleagues to have a special flair for picking up trends.

Over the years, of course, Ces has become a style icon in her own right, especially now that she can more or less dictate her own schedule. There's more time to think of herself, her clothes, more time to shop, which she says she does really fast. And, of course, more time for the family.

"I wouldn't call myself an ideal working mom," says Ces. "An ideal working mom has family as top priority and she works her schedule around her family, her duties as a mother. I try my best to be that ideal."

To make her kids appreciate what she does, she sometimes bring them to work. "You have to involve your kids in what you're doing," says Ces, "so that they know why it's important to you."

The Manila Peninsula offers children of all ages a chance to spend some quality time with their mothers on May 11. From sumptuous buffets to specialty cakes, pastries and sundaes, exquisite flower arrangements and relaxing weekend packages, the Manila Peninsula has the perfect treat for the perfect woman in your life.

Call 887-2888 local 2776 or 2276 for the Lobby, 2950 or 2951 for Nielsen's and 2100 for room reservations.

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES
PROVIDED BY STORES SPECIALISTS INC.
STYLING AND COORDINATION
BY ROSARIO HERRERA
SNOOKY SERNA'S HAIR AND MAKEUP
BY CHERRY

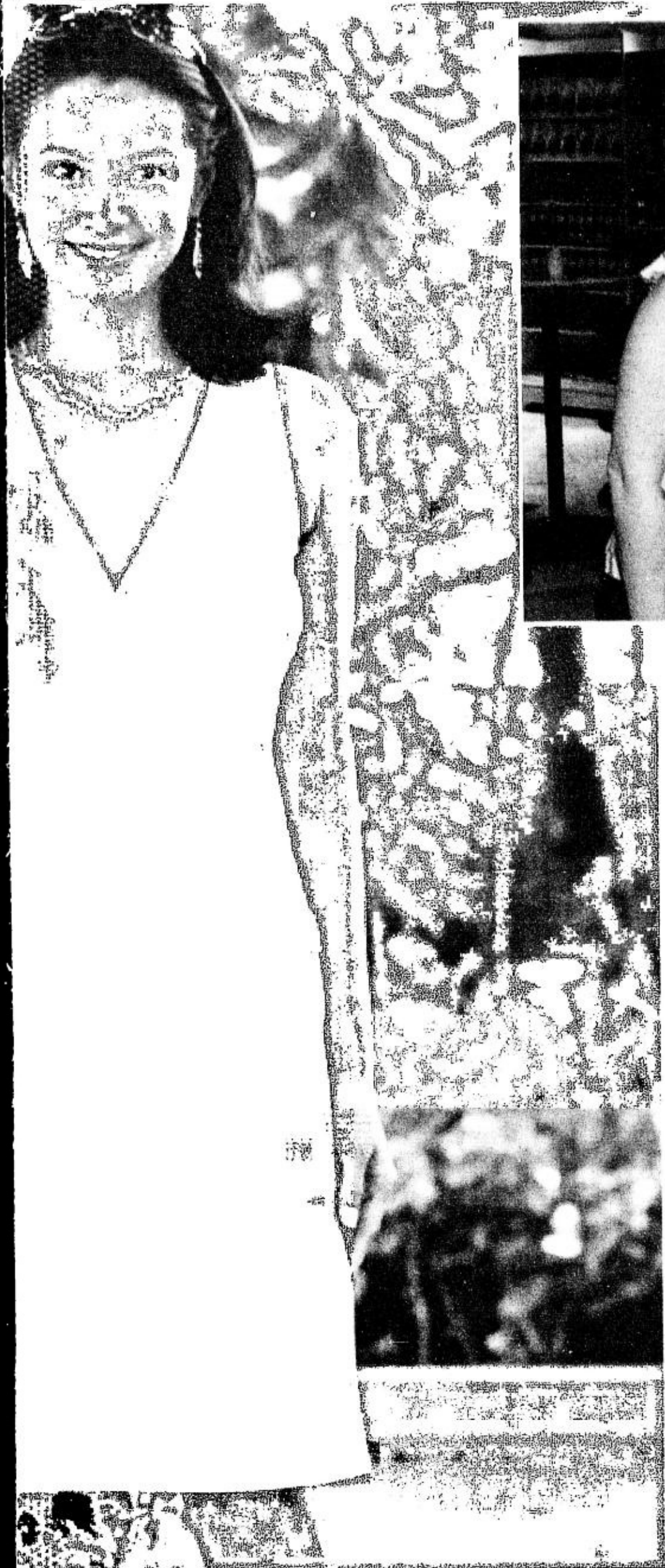
CES DRILON'S HAIR AND MAKEUP
BY MARIFE MORDIDO

SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE MANILA PENINSULA HOTEL,
MAKATI AND MAGNET GALLERY AT LOOP 5001, EUGENIO LOPEZ JR.
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

TWEETIE de Leon-Gonzalez is in a striped top with sheer floral sleeves by Jessica, tank top by Jessica, black skirt by Armani Exchange, silver necklace with round pendants by Anne Klein.



SNOOKY Serna wears a black-and-white long-sleeved top by Episode, blue jeans with sequins by Jessica, black bag by Kate Spade.



SNOOKY is in a polka-dot top by Anne Klein, black skirt by Armani Exchange, beige leather bag by Kate Spade, necklace by Anne Klein.



CES wears a striped long-sleeved top by Episode, blue jeans by Anne Klein, earrings by Anne Klein.

Sweetie, Honey buns, cupcake, brownie...

Kahit ano pa ang itawag mo,
iisa lang ang true love mo.



CES Orefia-Drilon is in an aqua long-sleeved top by Jessica, blue jeans by Anne Klein.

Abra - Bangue - Ilocos Sur (3) • Ilocos Norte (2) • La Union - Bauang • Cagayan - Tuguegarao City • Isabela - Roxas, Ilagan, Cauayan City (2), Santiago City (2) • Baguio City • Pangasinan - Mangaldan, Malasiqui, Tayug, Urdaneta City • Nueva Ecija - Guimba, Cabanatuan City • Tarlac (11) • Pampanga (2) • Bulacan - Malolos • Zambales - Olongapo City, Bataan - Limay

FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND A. LIPIN



MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



PUGAD BABOY

BY RM. JUNIOR



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Always trust your intuition, because it is quite accurate. This is why you can be daring and bold at times. You set the pace and thereby teach by example. Privately, you are a perfectionist. You approach life with an active, dynamic energy. This year, new beginnings and fresh starts excite you.

Birthday of: Paul "Bono" Hewson, musician; Fred Astaire, dancer/actor/singer; Linda Evangelista, model.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Surprise news about health benefits (or possibly your own health) can teach you something today. Be open to modern and ancient ways of maintaining wellness.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Sunday is Mother's Day. Even though you feel rebellious about family situations today, tomorrow you'll be glad to acknowledge anyone who plays this role in your life. (Think how you can do this.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Shopping and making special purchases pleases you today. You enjoy buying things because you see spending money as a way to exercise your rights. (And it is.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Plans that include activities with children, as well as plans that are centered around romantic interests, are subject to change today. Be prepared to go with the flow.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Siblings, relatives and neighbors might be the source of a mild surprise today. Be open to a change of plans. (You know how to be accommodating when you want to be.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): With the Moon in your sign today, things flow your way more easily. Do something different! Be a tourist in your own city. (There's a lot you have never seen.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You need quiet time to research a special pet project you're interested in. Your ability to unearth details and ferret out facts is excellent now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If chaos and tension at home get you down, seek some pleasant escape with a friend. Conversations about the past can bring laughter and new insights to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Discussions with a parent or someone senior to you are important today. You don't have to win an argument. After all, there's no point in winning if you lose a friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Romance and fun times are beautifully favored now! You are a long-lived sign; nevertheless, life is short. Grab your good times when you can.

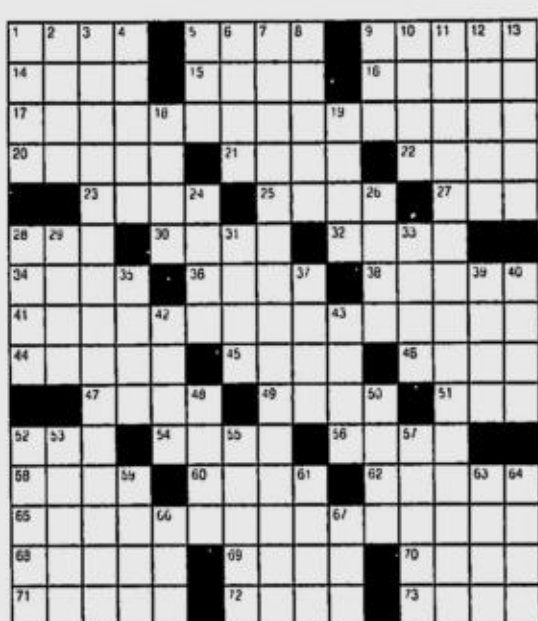
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your ability to charm others is excellent today! Naturally, this is no surprise, because you are the networker of the zodiac. Get out there and schmooze.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): What do you gain by trying to be rebellious? As long as you keep rebelling against it all go, and you will have your freedom.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Isinglass
- 5 Chute opener?
- 9 Restores to health
- 14 Eve's grandson
- 15 Slovak or Slovene
- 16 Sleep disorder
- 17 This puzzle's theme
- 20 Kind of energy
- 21 East of the Urals
- 22 Feudal serf
- 23 Sacred bull of Egypt
- 25 Singer Brickell
- 27 ___ and outs
- 28 J. Major and A. Blair
- 30 Food fish
- 32 Shucks!
- 34 Laugh boisterously
- 36 Armed services grp.
- 38 Authorization
- 41 Rarely, if ever?
- 44 Injury
- 45 Fruit pastries
- 46 Influence
- 47 For both sexes
- 49 Highlander
- 51 Singer Orbison
- 52 ___ Simbel
- 54 Bellicose god
- 56 Harvest
- 58 Throw out
- 60 Jazz singer
- 62 ___garde
- 65 This man dropped the ball
- 68 Shaq or Tatum
- 69 Aware of
- 70 Night light
- 71 Tiresomely sentimental
- 72 Low platform
- 73 Peter or Ivan



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

5/9/03

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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- 5 Greek letter
- 6 "M*A*S*H" star
- 7 Parented skunks?
- 8 Steer clear of
- 9 Laughter sounds
- 10 Fencing sword
- 11 A reason to be lidgely?
- 12 Singer Rimes
- 13 Market figures
- 18 Singer Kristofferson
- 19 Damsel
- 24 Steer clear of
- 26 Facility
- 28 Projecting part
- 29 Like pre-stereo sound
- 31 Hurry-up letters
- 33 Cloverleaf part
- 35 Nevada resort
- 37 Minute circus star?
- 39 Fly by oneself
- 40 Sole
- 42 Notion
- 43 PC operator
- 48 Took a straw
- 50 Jacob's wife
- 52 Like a temp. committee
- 53 1959 Wimbledon winner
- 55 Group characteristics
- 57 Sailor's shout
- 59 Scheme
- 61 Italian wine center
- 63 Amateur sports grp.
- 64 Guam or Yukon: abbr.
- 66 TV's Tarzan
- 67 Food fish

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



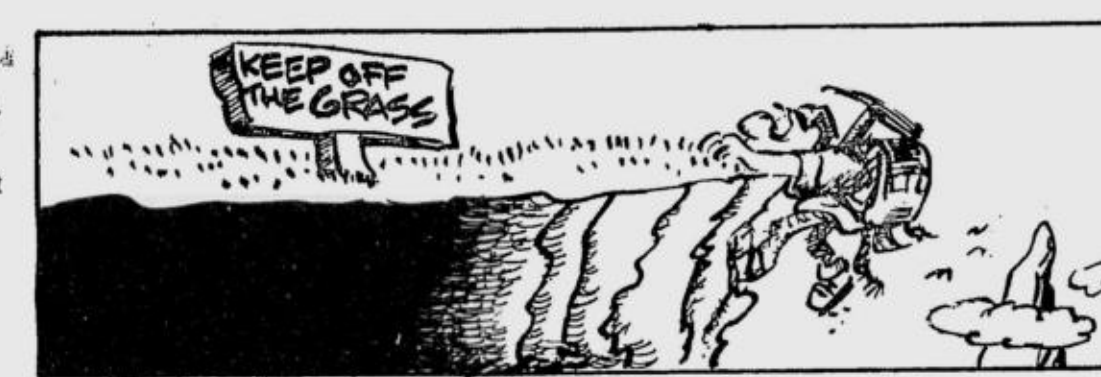
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2003



CAROUSEL Productions president Ramon Monzon with Richard Pruett of the US embassy



INTER-CON GM Stephen Vogel with banquet manager Chabs Tan



AVON team led by Jessamin Tiu-Chan, Francis Espiritu, Ching Gaspar and Emer Ramones



ANTON Ramos with Oudin Santos



ELISANTE Natividad in a gown by Jontie Martinez



LESLEY Samson wears a Michelle Abunga and Roy Martinez creation

And the winner is . . .

TEESAW



Raul Teebankee

makeup techniques and television exposure. They are being closely scrutinized and observed during functions like the contract signing held at V Bar where they met sponsors and supporters. Along the way, they have also become more beautiful and poised. This was most evident during the long gown presentation at the poolside. It takes a lot of self-confidence, nerve and driving ambition to become a winner—a combination of luck, fate, karma, prayers and overall beauty and quality. The victor be-

comes a quarter of a million pesos richer, carries the title for a year and gains national television exposure watched by over 20 million Filipinos.

The Miss Philippines 2003 Coronation Night will be on May 11 at Teatro Aguinaldo Theater. It will be televised live on Channel 2 at 9:30 p.m. It is produced by Carousel Productions with Avon, SunSilk, Close-up Lemon Mint, Creamsilk, Pond's, Hotel InterContinental and Air Philippines as sponsors.

IT'S NOT easy aspiring to become a beauty queen. One must be tall, pretty or beautiful, have good skin, education, communication skills, and that extra something. After passing the screening, the aspirant must spend the next three weeks competing with 23 other girls.

Some groups think that beauty contests are archaic. But beauty searches are part and parcel of the Filipino psyche. It is a culture in every barrio, barangay, town and city.

Last week, 24 Miss Philippines Earth candidates paraded their wares at the Hotel InterContinental poolside. Over a hundred cameramen were present to shoot every movement, curve and sashay. A candidate was almost yanked out by her father because photos of her in the tabloids showed parts of her décolleté and more.

The girls have undergone crash courses in poise, speech, environmental issues,



SHERRY Lou Franco in the Carousel pond



REP. Sherwin Gatchalian and Justine Gabionza



JV Villar of ABS-CBN



OUTGOING Miss Philippines April Perez receives a buss from mom Myrna.



ROY Alvarez



RAMON Tulfo and Tim Yap



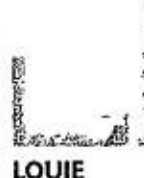
MANNY Victorino



DALE Villar



WENDY Puyat



LOUIE Ysmael



MARYJoyce Garcia wears a Totoy Madriaga gown while Richel Halili is in a Jonathan Pagaduan.

Blackboard

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Panasonic

* According to mobile.review (Eldar Murtazin, February 2003)

Promo period: May 1 to 31, 2003. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1838, Series of 2003.

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FRIDAY,
MAY 9, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

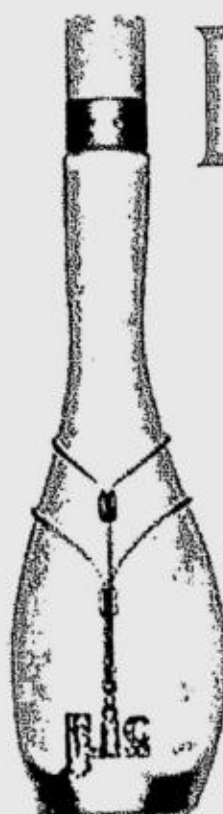
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10 people
of varying ages
but with sharp
noses rate new
perfumes



J.L.O Glow

Panel of noses reviews summer scents

NEW summer scents are sprouting like weeds! I have divided them into two categories—those that are loved and those either intensely loved or hated (L/H), no middle ground.

Summer scents are very light and don't last as long as cold-weather perfumes. They are meant to be reapplied often during the day.

I put together a panel of 10 people—five from each gender—with a representative from each generation (teens to 60s) to vet the different scents.

Loved scents

These perfumes are in the category of Cool Water and Prescriptives Calyx that have inspired a whole new wave in scents.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas



Bulgari au the Blanc—This new unisex scent's main ingredient is white tea. It has the perfect balance of spicy and floral, making it appealing to both sexes. The scent is clean, powder fresh, similar to that after a refreshing bath or shower. Now who wouldn't love that?

Other ingredients of the perfume are artemisia leaves, white pepper, ambergris and musk. I predict this will outdo Bulgari's uni-

sex Green Tea scent. It could even become a classic!

Armani Sensi—This is a very sexy blend of jasmine, palisandro (vanilla scented wood), acacia and kaffir lime. It smells slightly sweet and edible like a creamy dessert. A panelist said it was hardly a summer scent as it was a bit rich and seemed more suited for colder weather.

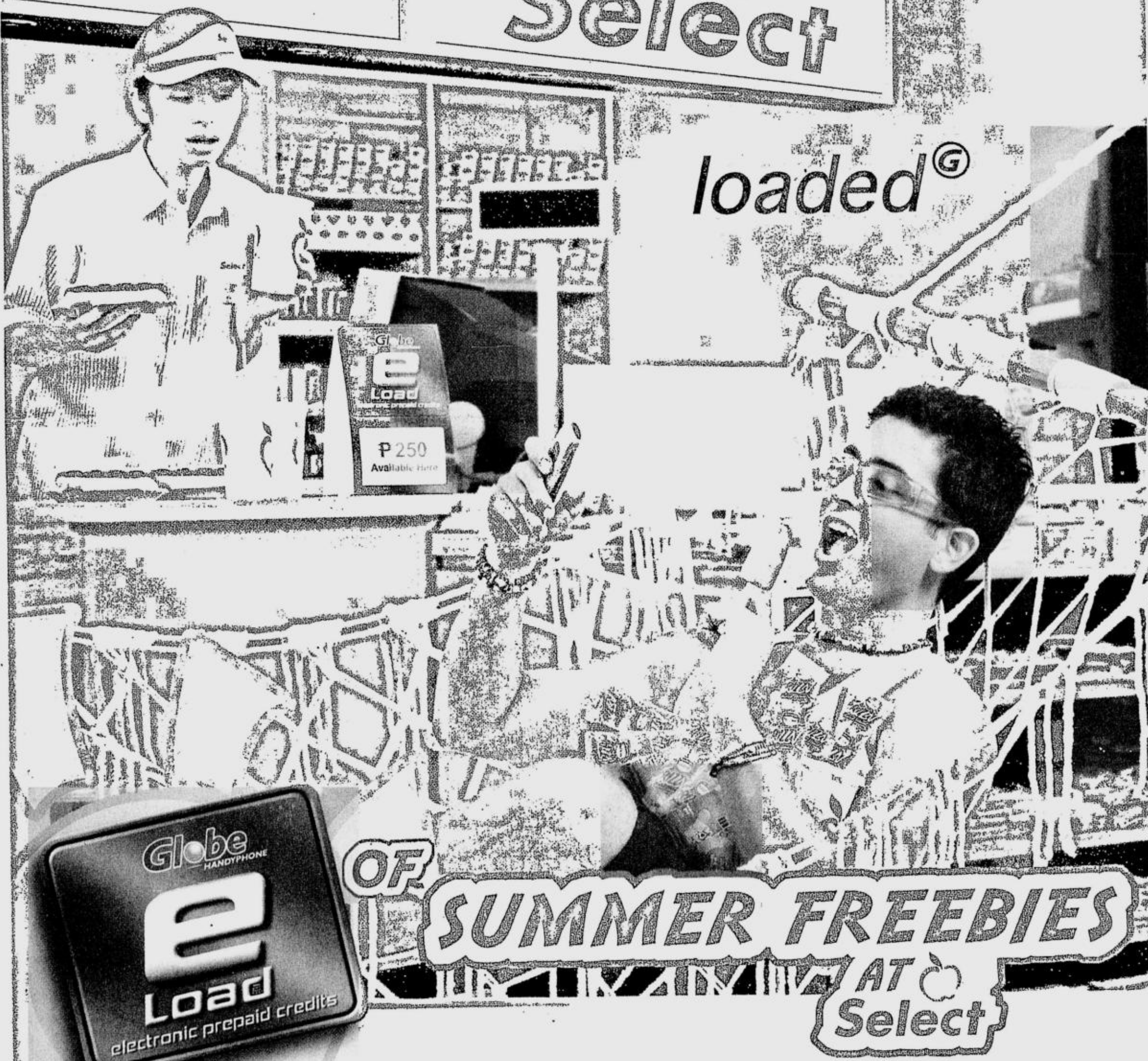
But the panel agreed that it pushed all the right buttons and would get one noticed positively. The scent is suitable for women 28 and above, as the younger ones do not have the "experience" for it! It encourages men to get closer and take a leisurely sniff!

Eternity Purple Orchid—The limited edition scent is floral with fruity undertones—a

PANEL/ E3

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1 Nestlé Frizzy
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0801, Series of 2003

New makeup trends for vibrant Filipinas



JESI Mendez recently launched "The Great Look" series, which features the latest make-up trends for young Filipinas.

Jhanel B. Marayag of Jesi Mendez-Galleria interpreted these ideas on Ms Robinsons winner Aysha Villaroman and finalists Nikki Meneses, Joana Rumohr and Beth Quia-cosan, who are currently Robinsons Malls' image models.

On Villaroman, 21, Jhanel used a combination of tan and pink tones to complement her dark and exotic looks. On Nikki, shades of earth colors. For teenager Joanna, light and mauve combinations to bring out her *mestiza* features.

Pixie-faced Beth, on the other hand, was made up to look sophisticated with the use of orange, tan and dark browns.

Jesi Mendez has branches at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Metro East. Call 632-0536/632-9140 (Galleria), 682-7255/682-7256 (Metro East).

ORANGE, tan and dark browns enhance Beth Quia-cosan's features and gave her that air of sophistication.



TEENAGER Joana Rumohr (top) prefers to use light and mauve combinations to bring out her *mestiza* features but still look natural. Miss Robinsons titleholder Aysha Villaroman (right) is wearing a combination of tan and pink tones, which complemented her dark and exotic looks.



'Great faces sell great products'

THE FACES of the Estée Lauder brand are Liya Kebede, Elizabeth Hurley and Carolyn Murphy, it was announced recently by Patrick Bousquet-Chavanne, group president of The Estée Lauder Companies.

"Carolyn, Elizabeth and Liya are the definition of modern beauty," said Bousquet-Chavanne. "Their combined talent infuses the brand with energy, vitality and modernity and connects us with consumers of all ages and cultures in a contemporary, exciting and unexpected way."

Raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Liya Kebede established herself among the ranks of fashion's elite by appearing in fashion shows for such designers as Ralph Lauren, Marc Jacobs, Michael Kors, Gucci, Yves Saint Laurent and Balenciaga. She has appeared on the covers of major global fashion magazines, like French Vogue, Italian Vogue and V Magazine, and is in high demand with the industry's top international designers, editors and photographers.



CAROLINE Murphy

Renewal

Elizabeth Hurley's new contract marks the beginning of her ninth consecutive year representing Estée Lauder in its worldwide advertising campaigns. The multi-talented British actress is the face of Intuition and appears in its newest campaign, which will launch globally in major beauty, fashion and lifestyles magazines this month.

In addition, Hurley will continue to make personal appearances around the world on behalf of Estée Lauder and the company's Breast Cancer Awareness campaign. Her tireless support of The Breast Cancer Research Foundation, founded by Evelyn H. Lauder, includes her personal participation in the recent United States book and media tour that launched Lauder's most recent collection of photography, *An Eve For Beauty*, proceeds of which benefited the cause.

Carolyn Murphy's first advertising campaign for Estée Lauder appeared in January 2002 issues of all major beauty, fashion and lifestyle magazines worldwide. When Estée Lauder launched her as its new face in 2001, Vogue characterized Murphy as icon in the making.

Murphy can be seen in a wide variety of skincare, make-up and fragrance print and television campaigns worldwide. In November 1998, Murphy received the industry's highest acclaim and was named model of the year at the VH-1 Fashion Awards.

"Great faces sell great products," explained Leonard A. Lauder, chair of The Estée Lauder Companies board.

The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. products are sold in over 130 countries and territories under well-recognized brand names, including Estée Lauder, Clinique, Aramis, Prescriptives, Origins, MAC, Bobbi Brown, Tommy Hilfiger, La Mer, Jane, Donna Karan, Aveda, Stila, Jo Malone, Bumble and bumble and Kate spade beauty.



ELIZABETH Hurley and Liya Kebede



Hair show tours malls

KOLOURS holds its Hair Fashion Tour at malls around Metro Manila and Luzon. Kolours Shampoo-In Hair Color will hit Dagupan on May 11, 2 p.m. at the Atrium of the CSI Mall. Kolours offers versatile coloring and protein-enriched conditioning. You can even do it yourself right at home.

Minco Fabregas (son of famous character actor Jaime Fabregas and brother of Lara) will be hosting the show, which will feature a hair fashion show that will highlight all nine shades of the Kolours system. There will also be free digital make-overs, hair consultations, and hair coloring with every purchase of any Kolours product.



KOLOURS Rolls Out "Kolours hair Fashion Tour"

'Friends' celebrate launch of their club

THE RIZAL Ballroom of Shangri-La Makati was transformed into a spa by Cynthia Almarino for yet another grand affair hosted by Dr. Vicki Belo.

This year's celebration was different from last year's thanksgiving party for her Morato patients with Boy Abunda and the Hunks.

The occasion was the launch of the Obagi

Circle of Friends, an exclusive club composed of Belo patients who went through the Obagi Skin Rejuvenation System. Members of the club enjoy benefits such as discounts on Obagi Medical Products, free services at Belo Clinics and invitations to events organized especially for them.

Buddy Trinidad prepared the buffet, while



BELO MARKETING manager-internal Ana Pulido, Cynthia Almarino, Dr. Vicki Belo, Quark Henares and Ivy Almarino



CES Drilon and Atom Henares



FLORENCIA Belo



DR. Zein Obagi



DANBY Henares



CRISTALLE Henares



CARMI Martin, Dr. Victor Lopez and Minguita Lopez



MEL Esguerra, Karen Davila, Paolo Villaroel and Dr. Romy Nuguid



KRISTINE Yang, Juno Henares, Vivian Yuchengco and Charo Yuchengco

Cinnabon offered different iced coffee concoctions. Complimentary services were offered by, among others, the Skin Master, Laser Hair removal and Quantum SR IPL Photo-Rejuvenation. Belo introduced the newest addition to the services offered by her clinic, the Cosme-canique Lift 6 Natural Facelift machine.

Guest of honor was Beverly Hills-based Dr. Zein Obagi, an internationally renowned dermatologist and developer of the Obagi Blue Peel and Obagi Skin Health Restoration System. He briefed the other guests on how the Obagi system works.

He said the method was different and dynamic compared to other contemporary dermatological approaches. Instead of targeting the skin surface, he said the Obagi system tar-

geted individual skin cells and functions to correct damage from sun, age, pollution and bad habits over time.

Obagi Medical Products are doctor-prescribed and have to be monitored and supervised by a physician.

Loyal Obagi users who attended the event included former Miss Universe Margie Moran-Floirendo, who has been using Obagi for years.

Other guests included Johnny Litton, Karen Davila, Ces Drilon, Cory Quirino, Lolit Solis, Albert Martinez, sexy stars Angela Velez, Aubrey Miles, Diana Zubiri, Lana Asanin, Katya Santos, Kaye Abad, Nikki Valdez and Roselle Nava; and beauty queen Miriam Quiambao.



MARGIE Moran-Floirendo



DIANA Zubiri



CORY Quirino



ANGELA Velez

Panel of noses reviews summer scents

From page E1

mix of purple flowers like vanilla orchid, freesia, water lily and fruits like purple plum, peach and mandarin. It smells like flowers and melons in perfect sync and is both refreshing and relaxing. The perfume also has the most beautiful deep amethyst bottle.

Lanvin L'homme (for men)—This comes in a cool blue bottle and has a very stimulating fresh citrus-like scent. The smell of oranges and other citrus fruits will lift anyone's mood.

Calvin Klein Crave (for men). This scent—suitable for people 15 and above—got the thumbs-up from every panelist. Even this writer uses it and gets compliments.

The scent is a combination of greens and citrus-like palm leaf, basil, vetiver, sage, star fruit and bergamot. A great everyday scent that will make one smell *guwapo*, the panel unanimously agreed.

L/H scents

These products are reminiscent of Christian Dior's Poison and Thierry Mugler's Angel. There is no middle ground with these products. People were either ranting or raving!

J.Lo Glow—This has the sexiest bottle—reminiscent of J.Lo herself—in frosted glass reminding one of a steamy shower. The scent is a fusion of the singer-actress' favorite

SENSI by Giorgio Armani



scents: jasmine, rose, vanilla, neroli and pink grapefruit.

The panelists became very emotional. Half said it reminded them of their childhood and smelled so clean, simple and fresh, suitable for all ages. On the other hand, the rest complained that they smelled no citrus but only flowers like *kalachuchi*, *dama de noche* and *ilang-ilang* and that the scent was so heady it gave them a migraine.

Panelists in their teens to late 20s were more positive about the scent.

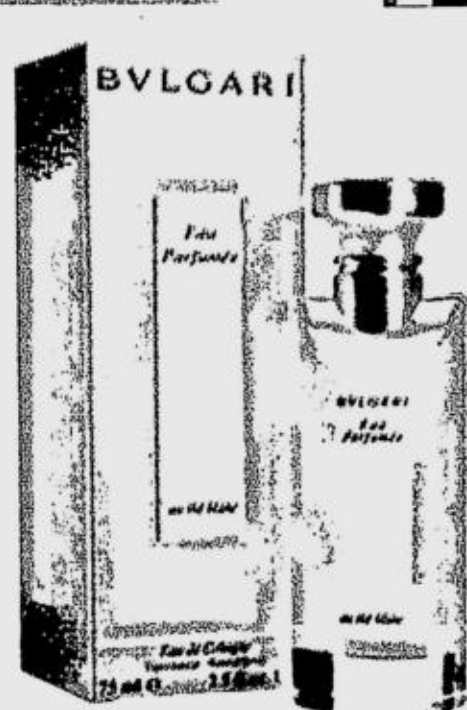
Escada Ibiza Hippy—This fruity scent is a limited edition for summer. Panelists who didn't like fruity, found this cloying, leaving a smell like someone spilled punch on them. Those who loved fruity said it smelled of candy, carnivals and yummy sexy fun!

The scent of litchi, pears and assorted berries made this a favorite among beach-loving people of all ages. It was also a favorite among teens and young mothers.

Escada is available exclusively at Rustan's



ETERNITY Purple Orchid



BVLGARI au the Blanc

Department Store

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

Salon offers treatments for healthy hair

SALON West Bohol branch recently celebrated its first anniversary.

A combination of beauty parlor and spa, **Salon West Bohol** is located at Unit 3 El Jardin del Presidente, 41 Bohol Avenue, Quezon City.

Owned by Cathy Gruba-Tanso, **Salon West Bohol** has famous celebrity clients like Karen Davila, Cherrie Mercado, Claudine Barreto, Dominic Ochoa, Albert Martinez, Kristine Hermosa, Jericho Rosales, Camille Prats, Evangeline Pascual, Jaya, Dingdong Dantes, and Isabel Roces.

Salon West Bohol offers services like scalp treatment, hair coloring, nail sculpture, nail art, foot spa treatment, manicure, pedicure, body scrubbing and massage, facial therapy, and waxing treatment.

During its anniversary celebration, **Salon West Bohol** launched its hair forecast for 2003, featuring TV personalities Albert Martinez, Janna Victoria, Dominic Ochoa and models Mike Luakian, Madel Enriquez and Gerry Evangelio.

Salon West also introduced the lava stone massage. According to Tanso, this kind of stone massage is effective in relieving stress and recharging one's body, mind and spirit.

Stones used in the massage are smooth volcanic rocks which are heated to about 140° F. The treatment is applied by therapists.



JANNA Victoria



DOMINIC Ochoa



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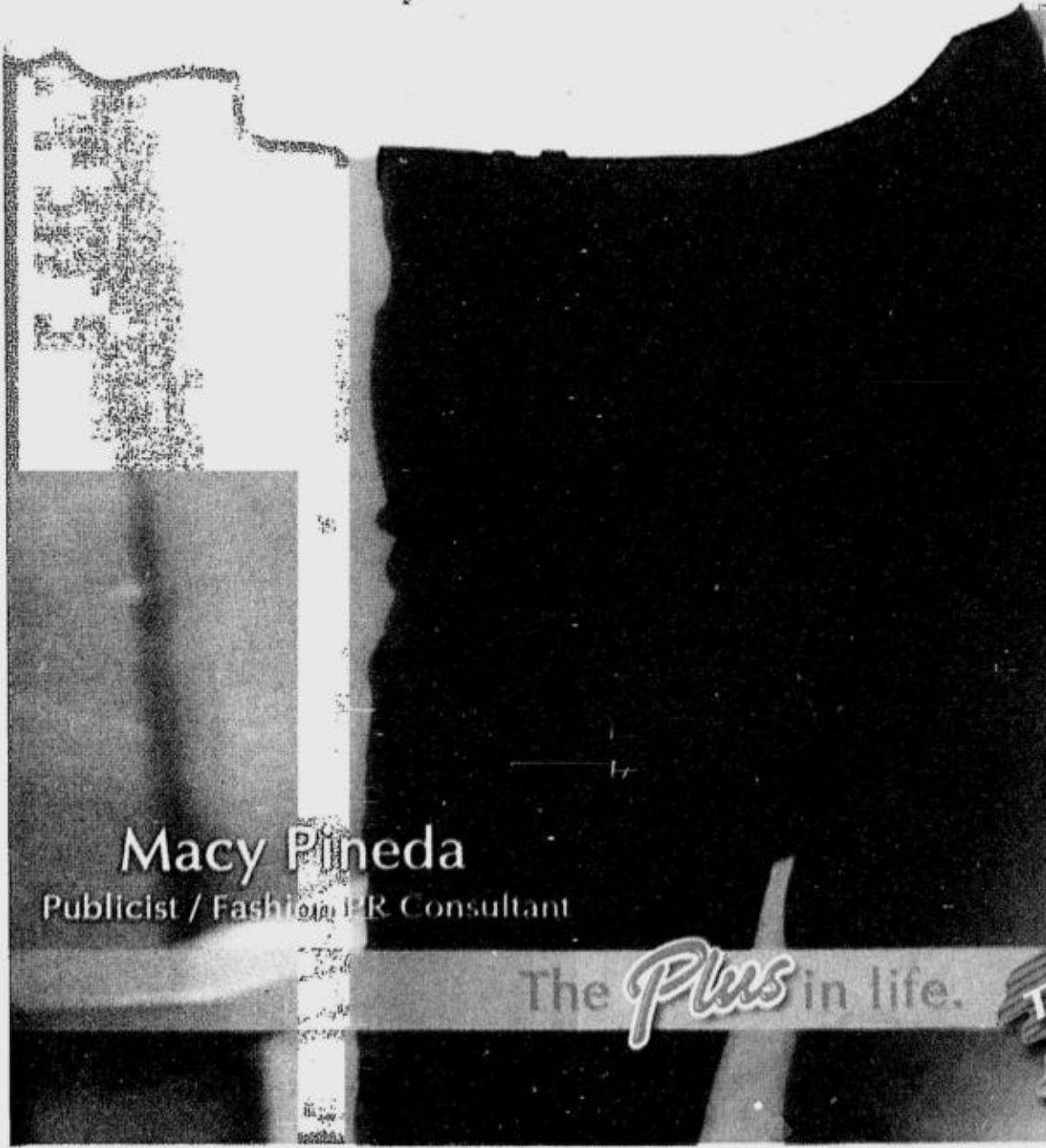
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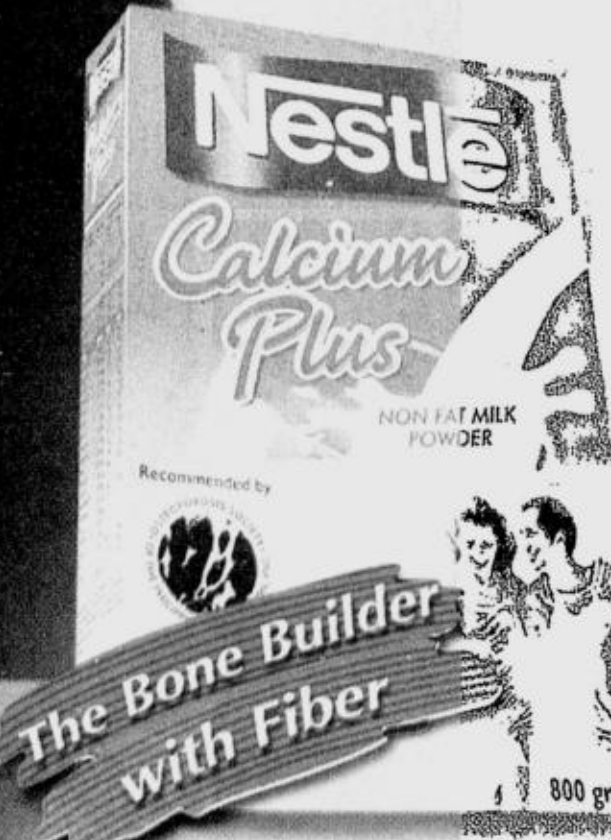
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Greenbelt	May 1-18
Smart Tower	May 1-18
SM North EDSA (& TSI)	May 1-18
Robinsons Galleria	May 6-18
Binondo	May 1-18
SM Davao	May 1-18
SM Cebu (& TSI)	May 1-18
Mango Road Cebu	May 1-18
Session Road Baguio	May 7-18

LOCATIONS	DATES
EDSA Shangri-la	May 1-11
Rockwell Powerplant	May 1-11
Alabang Town Center	May 1-11
Robinsons Malate	May 1-12
Podium	May 1-11
Festival Mall	May 5-18
Mile High Camp John Hay**	May 7-18

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CAT Juan

LIFESTYLE

The not so pretty side of modeling

By Alex Y. Vergara

SO you want to be a model and eventually star in your own show on MTV? You're not the only one. It seems every tall, fresh-faced teenager with lots of spunk and a sprinkling

of foreign blood in his or her veins wants to be the next Sarah Meier or Paolo Paraiso nowadays.

But before you plunge into the glamorous yet zany world of modeling, it pays to know what you're getting into, what's behind all that glitz. The unseen side of the fashion biz that every model

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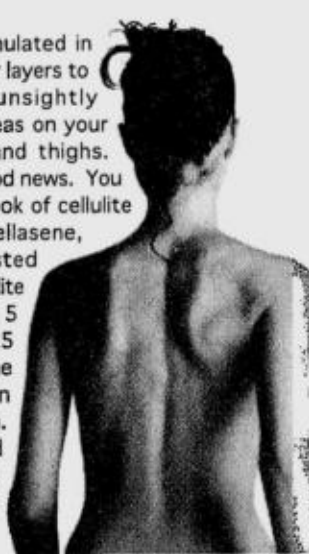
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May 9	SM Southmall	Lani Mercado & Jojo Revilla
May 10	SM Supercenter Sucat	James Blanco & Izza Calzado
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May 11	SM City Bicutan	Annabel Rama & Richard Gutierrez
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May 1	SM City Sta. Mesa	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
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May 3	SM Southmall	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
May 4	SM City Manila	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
May 8	SM City Fairview	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
May 9	SM City Bacoar	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
May 10	SM City North Edsa	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
May 12	SM City Bicutan	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
May 13	SM Megamall	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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beauty experts will give mom helpful tips to always keep her looking her best

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May 10	SM City Fairview
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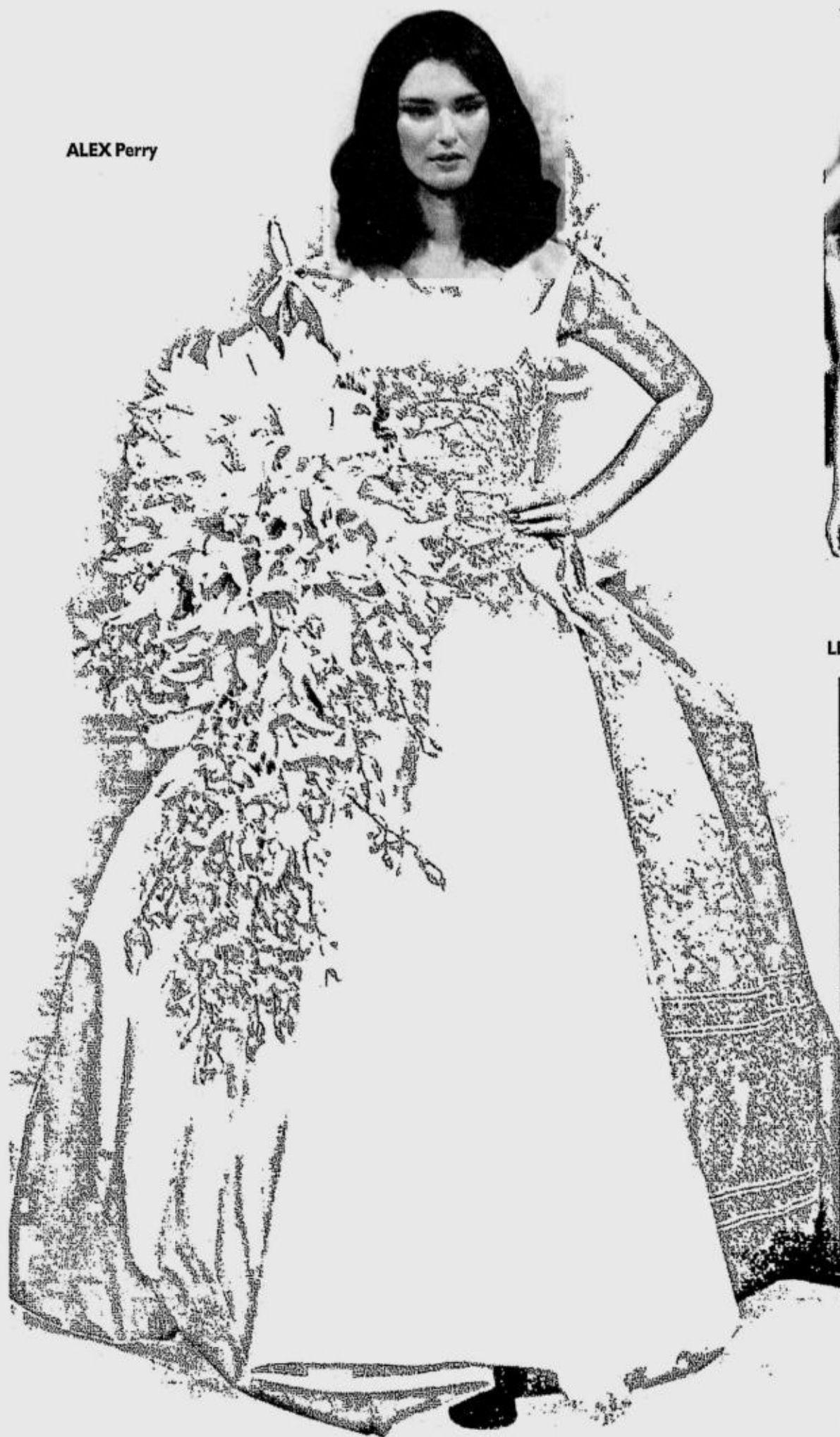
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Time: 3:00 p.m.

May 8	SM City North Edsa
May 9	SM Southmall
May 10	SM City Fairview
May 11	SM City Bicutan
May 13	SM City Bacoar
May 14	SM Megamall

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DESERT Designs by Megan Salmon

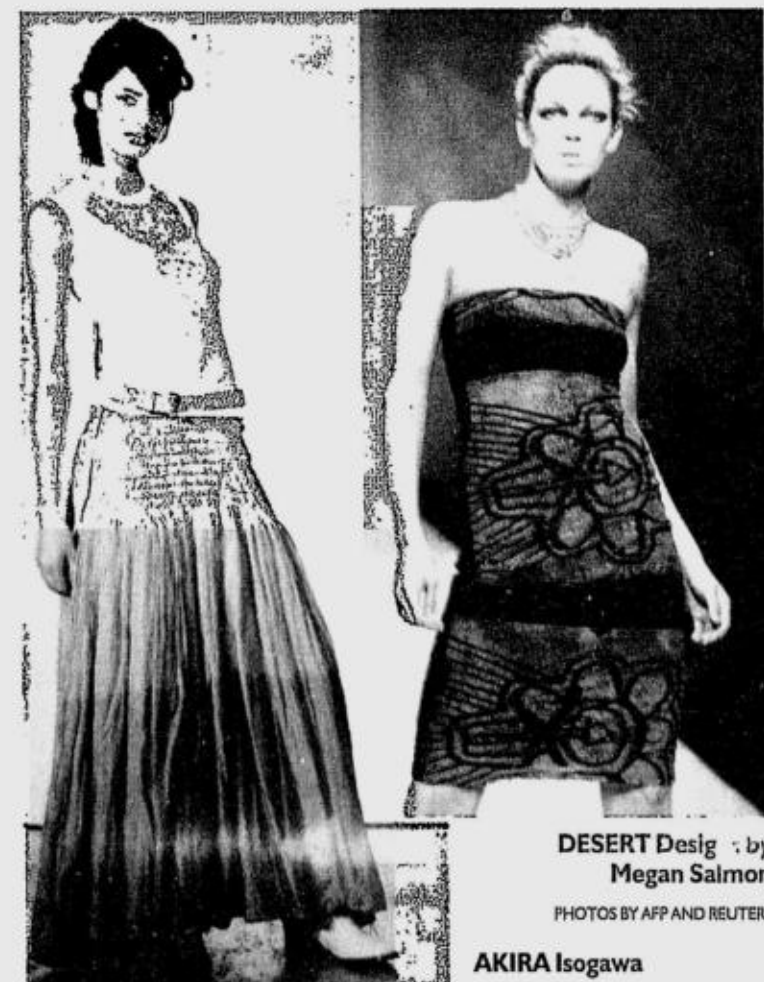
AUSTRALIAN FASHION WEEK

Up and down the runway Down Under

DESPITE fears that the SARS virus would deter buyers from attending, over 60 designers from Australia, New Zealand and Asia presented their Spring/Summer collections for buyers from the major department stores and boutiques around world at the recent Australian Fashion Week. Venues included the Sydney Opera House and Circular Quay areas. Now on its eighth year, the Australian Fashion Week features the best designers from the Australia and Asia-Pacific region, including Australian designers Alex Perry, Leona Edmiston, Charmagne Mewing, Kirrily Johnston, Prudence Todd, Bettina Liano and Japanese-born Akira Isogawa; Australian labels Pigsinspace, Third Millennium, Benjamin Mach for Robyn Caglan, Ty+Melita; New Zealand designer Kate Sylvester and the New Zealand label Zambesi.



SASS & bide designers Sarah-Jane Clarke and Heidi Middleton (middle) are flanked by two models at the end of their parade.



DESERT Design by Megan Salmon

PHOTOS BY AFP AND REUTERS

AKIRA Isogawa



EASTON Pearson

The not so pretty side of modeling

CalCarrie's Espino has seen naïve and promising kids turn into swell-headed 'monsters'

From page F1

worth his or her washboard abs has to deal with includes illegal drugs, the lure of wanton sex and untoward advances—Hans Montenegro's experience is a classic case—from various shady characters.

Veteran fashion director and producer Joey Espino, president of CalCarrie's International Models Philippines, never tires of retelling Kylene Ganigan's story and how, through proper training and the right exposure, the model's perseverance and passion for the profession eventually paid off.

Ganigan is one of 89 models in CalCarrie's growing stable of talents. The modeling agency—which also holds the exclusive franchise to Super Model of the World (Philippines)—introduced recently 22 "new" faces at a grand launch at Rockwell's the Loft.

Poised and confident on the ramp, Ganigan was the exact opposite of herself three years ago.

Full of potential

A teary-eyed Ganigan sought CalCarrie's help after a producer treated her shabbily before a fashion show. Despite her inexperience, Espino saw the young woman's potentials and immediately took her in provided she underwent CalCarrie's training.

"Kylene failed to earn the respect of her producer back then because she lacked knowledge and confidence," says Espino. "To her credit, she took the regular training we provided seriously."

Her efforts soon paid off when she landed a P400,000 contract as So-En's endorser. It was only a matter of time before she began receiving offers to model abroad, earning enough to gift herself with a vacation in Paris.

"It's always heartening to hear success stories such as Kylene's," says Espino, a commerce graduate who started directing fashion shows while still a student at the



BROTHERS Audie and Joey Espino with model Joe Vince Canizares

University of Santo Tomas. He later studied fashion designing and was able to practice it for sometime, before offers to direct shows started pouring in.

"I had to choose between doing clothes and doing shows," says Espino, concurrent head of Runway Productions. "Because of my background in fashion design, I have a better understanding of how the clothes work within a certain context."

His ties with Singapore-based CalCarrie's dates back to 1992 when the firm's executives made a Southeast Asian swing in search of fresh faces. Seeing how versatile and good-looking Filipino models were, with their unique mix of Malay, Chinese, Indian, Spanish and American blood, the Singaporeans convinced Espino to send some talents to Singapore.



INQUIRER'S Tim Yap (yes he's now a model for CalCarrie's) and Alex Escat

LAUNCH PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

"They landed good jobs there," he says of the Filipino models. "The only problem was no office was representing them abroad. There was also no formal structure here to train and hook them up with the right clients."

Regional expansion

Since CalCarrie's was bent on regional expansion, its executives convinced Espino in 1994 to head the Philippine office. The modeling agency also has offices in Hong Kong and China, and affiliates in Vietnam and Burma. Through its regional and international connections, CalCarrie's is able to provide many of its models with lucrative jobs abroad.

"The Philippines, together with Singapore and Thailand, (is among) the top three sources of models in Asia," says Espino. "Some of our models can pass off as Chinese, but (with) a unique twist that never fails to catch other people's attention."

As the models' manager, CalCarrie's derives its income primarily from the commissions it gets from its wards' talent fees. Espino soon put up Runway Productions, a separate company in charge of producing fashion shows and special events.

Despite the perception that the quality of CalCarrie's models has declined—well, freelance senior models such as Melanie Marquez, Apples Aberin-Sadhawani, Tweetie de Leon-Gonzales and Marina Benipayo, to name a few, are tough acts to follow—Espino is confident that his new batch of models will appeal to their respective markets.

"With a global market that has become

THE NOT/F4

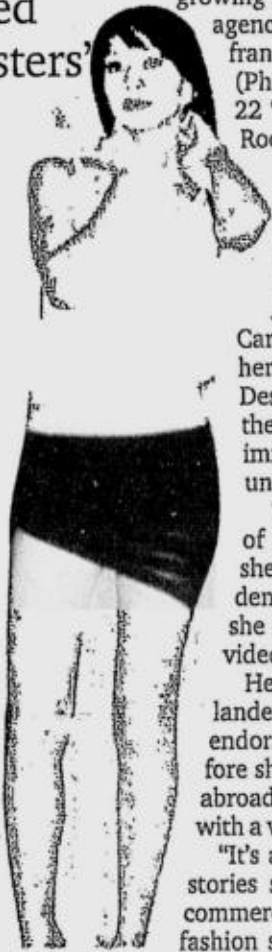


DERICK Correa



SASHA Moyer

KYLENE Ganigan shows off her runway gams



Even through your most awkward teenage years, she saw the star in you.



No one loves you like mom.

Mother's Day is on May 11.

Rustan's

The not so pretty side of modeling

From page F3

quite segmented," Espino explains, "More and more clients are searching for a certain look. I took my cue from Eileen Ford. One of our primary jobs as an agency is to 'classify' a face and find out how it should be marketed."

After the likes of Alek Wek and Irena Pantaevea made it big abroad, we rest our case.

Although modeling has had a long history in the country, it was only around six years ago, says Espino, when almost every good-looking youngster started dreaming of becoming a model. The phenomenon has spread to other shores, "afflicting" wide-eyed wannabes in the farthest reaches of China, India, Latin America and Africa. Blame it all on MTV.

When you talk to kids nowadays, Espino adds, hardly anyone wants to be a doctor, lawyer, priest or engineer anymore. Everybody wants to be either a model or a VJ—well some genuinely dream of becoming a Sex Bomb dancer, but that's another story.

The desire among Filipino teenagers to become VJs was further bolstered when Donita Rose and G Toengi made it big in Singapore on MTV. It was only a matter of time before CalCarrie's Philippines had its first two VJs: Sarah Meier and Anna Shier.

"Leticia Casta paved the way for very young models," says Espino. "It's now common for boys and girls as young as 14 to enter the world of modeling. Given the right training and exposure, these kids become marketable in three years time."

It's not surprising for a generation weaned



SALVADOR

on the culture of celebrity to value fame and popularity more than money when pursuing a modeling career. But some things never change. Today's youngsters still see modeling as a medium to express themselves and a chance to work with people their age.

This probably also explains why today's parents are generally more supportive of their children's "career" choice compared to those who came before. No wonder as many of them, like Espino, came of age when MTV debuted in 1983.

But wanting to be a model and becoming one, as many wannabes realize later, are two totally different states of being. It's no joke to maintain one's looks, much more to maintain one's stature and sanity in an extremely fickle and competitive business.

That's why even experienced models aren't



SHAN Apuad

ALBERT Adrales

exempt from the training CalCarrie's conducts regularly.

Tough subject

The training includes such topics as basic modeling, advance personality development, acting, hygiene and grooming, modeling business and how to deal with people. Expectedly, the last one has always been tough to handle.

Espino and his staff are aware of the enormous responsibility entrusted to them not only by parents, but by society as a whole.

"That's probably where my being a Thomasian comes in," he says. "I try to keep the kids grounded by instilling in them the right values. Aside from the regular training we provide to hone their modeling skills, they go on retreats at least twice a year and visit orphanages regularly."

Espino has seen how once naïve and promising kids turn into swell-headed "monsters."

"I (realized) early on (that) everything boils down to a person's values and his or her sense of priorities," he says. "To last in this business, they should stay confident and focused, with the right values intact. I want them to learn how to earn the respect of other people."

Like a parent, Espino has had to deal with all sorts of problems, including pregnant models and those who impregnated their girlfriends. Would-be dads are just as bad for business as pregnant models because they can't focus and attract the right kind of work.

"I go out of my way to talk to them and I ask pregnant models to go on a retreat first before going on leave," he says. "Of course, they'll always have a place in CalCarrie's after they give birth and get back in shape."

But some things are simply beyond a model's control. That's why bookers like Chere Du and Sao Salinda (the company has four) serve as the talents' first line of defense.

Questionable characters

"We screen would-be clients," says Du. "We always turn down questionable individuals (who invite) them, for instance, to grace late-night parties without any particular agenda."

Unless she knows the client well, Salinda won't send a model to meet a total stranger.

"If ever I'm in doubt," she says, "I send the models' pictures first via e-mail."

Since many models have yet to finish college, Espino constantly reminds them of the importance of finishing their studies. Interestingly, some of CalCarrie's models are doctors, engineers, lawyers, flight attendants and a pilot (Gemith Gemparo).

Espino points out that modeling doesn't provide lifetime employment, after all. A model is extremely lucky to have a career that lasts beyond seven years.

Salinda adds, "A growing number of clients are also becoming particular about a model's educational background. They want someone not only with the looks but also with the brains to endorse their products."

Modeling can be such a lucrative profession, says Espino, that if one manages his/her earnings well, he/she can finance his/her way to college and still have enough left to set up a business.

Of course, not a few models have parlayed their popularity on the ramp into lucrative show biz careers.

"One's good looks is a God-given gift," Espino says. "But beauty fades. That's why they must always put God first in everything they do."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



ARMED and dangerous!

PESO POWER



The currency rollback that gives you the power to buy more of the world's best brands is back!

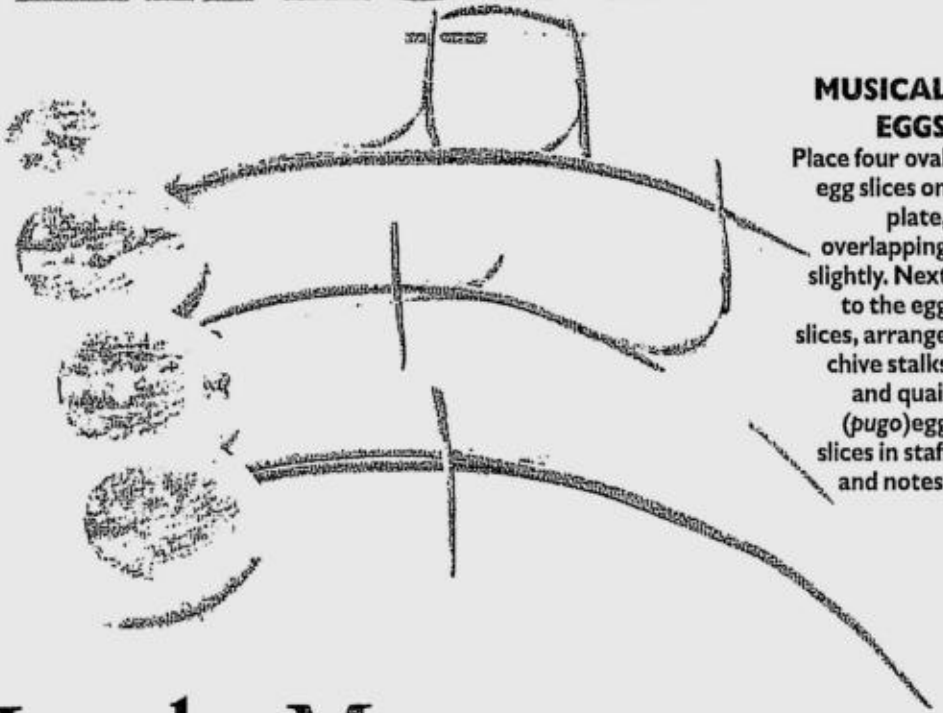
Peso Power will run from May 1 to 31, 2003 at Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall and from May 5 to June 4, 2003 at Duty Free Philippines Cebu Waterfront Hotel, Lahug.

OFWs and Balikbayans can now shop within 15 days upon arrival.

The discount on dollar purchases will be based on the percentage difference between the official Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas rate of the day and P48.



LIFESTYLE



MUSICAL EGGS

Place four oval egg slices on plate, overlapping slightly. Next to the egg slices, arrange chive stalks and quail (pugo) egg slices in staff and notes.

Look, Ma, gorgeous garnishes for you

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

BREAKFAST in bed? Mom will definitely love it! But who needs crumbs in the sheet?

Many mothers say it's actually more pleasant to eat a nicely set table, complete with beautiful flowers, clean table napkins and crystalware. And it doesn't have to be breakfast.

Even if mom is on a perpetual diet, she'll gladly break it just this once for a specially prepared meal by her husband and kids.

So, listen up, kids!

LOOK/G2

WHAT'S ON
A MOTHER'S DAY MUSICAL SHOW

Specially for

Featuring:
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Renz Verano, Michael Santana
and Jeffrey Hidalgo

Novellino

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See posters for details. For further inquiries, call ASIATRUST BANK at 373-4101/924-5693/924-7525. Visit any of our branches or our website at www.asiitrustbank.com

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ASIATRUST Bank

Over 42 years of Working for the Entrepreneur

How do moms keep themselves looking young?

With today's demands, juggling your time between family and career is not an easy task for moms. So, how do moms manage to maintain the beautiful, youthful-looking skin we often envy, amidst the stress and pressures of motherhood? Here, the beautiful moms of Facial Care Centre share their secret.

What's the best beauty secret your mom ever gave you?

Marilen: My mom taught me to use moisturizer when I was 12 or 13, and to never sleep with any trace of make-up.
Irene: Cleanse, exfoliate, and moisturize every night.
Jenny: My mom always advised me to keep away from the sun.
Angel: To keep myself simple at all times.
Fely: Be happy. Love your family.

These moms share their secret...



Marilen: I go to the gym 3X a week, to Facial Care Centre once a week, the spa and parlor once or twice a month...In short, I really pamper myself.



Dinah: Proper diet, pilates... inner spiritual peace...and of course - Facial Care Centre!

April: I watch what I eat... I do a lot of walking... and I keep up-to-date with styles.



Fely: Working out, taking my vitamins...and of course, regular treatments at Facial Care Centre!



Angel: I do sports or exercise and surround myself with younger people.



Irene: Proper diet, exercise, and Facial Care Centre.



Jenny: By possessing an optimistic disposition.



Truly, mothers know best. We only wish that we could be as beautiful and youthful-looking like these moms. Well, the good news is, we can! Clear, flawless, ageless skin is available for everyone at Facial Care Centre.

Just dial **815-2539** for a **FREE** consultation.

How would you like to spend Mother's Day?

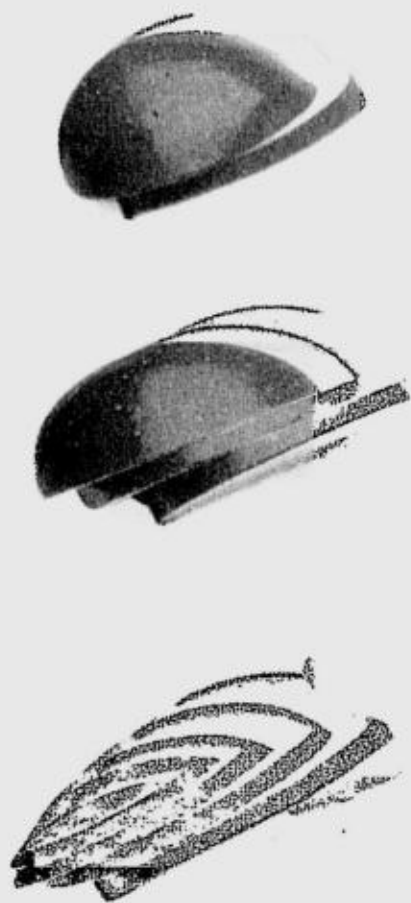
Jenny: With my loved-ones on a beach...so I can let my daughter play with sand and water.
Irene: Go to my mom's house to tell her and show her that I love her.
Marilen: Definitely with my family. We could probably go out-of-town.
Fely: Have a quiet dinner with my husband and kids.
April: I want to spend it with my mom. I just want to make her happy.
Angel: Go on a picnic with my family...or maybe go to Tagaytay and have lunch there.
Dinah: In a private, secluded place with my family.

What's the best thing about being a mom?

Fely Ong: The fulfillment of having a family to love and care for, being loved and cared for as well.
April Marcial-Stewart: Having a special bond with my kids. It doesn't matter if I'm in my best or my worst... they love me just the same.
Angel Lesaca-Rosales: Hearing my kids say 'I love you.'
Irene Salud: Being with my daughter as she grows and learns new things in life.
Jenny Sarmiento-Icasas: My daughter's smiles, hugs, kisses and sweet words that cheer me up everyday.
Marilen Tomacruz: The best thing is when my son sneaks into my room to give me a kiss and whisper, 'I love you, Mama.'
Dinah Dominguez: Knowing your kids adore & love you, hearing them say 'I love you mom' is like heaven. I couldn't ask for more.

What gift would you like to receive for Mother's Day?

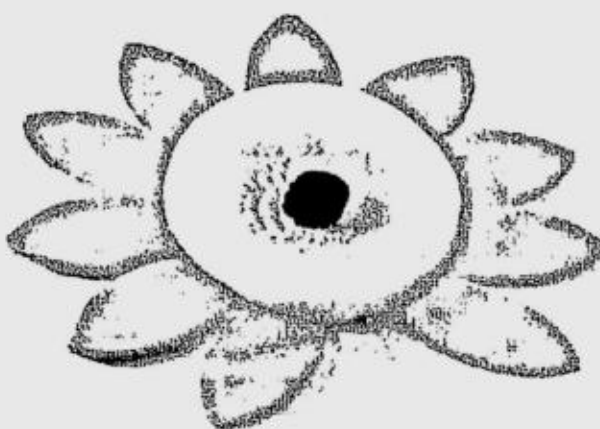
Irene: A Mother's Day card made by my daughter.
Angel: A beautiful bouquet of flowers from my kids and jewelry from my husband.
April: Cards my kids made. They make the best cards. Once, they even made me this scrapbook where they compiled all my pictures and the articles about me...I was really touched.
Dinah: My children's undivided love and attention.
Fely: I love it most when I receive cards with endearing & sincere words of love and care.
Jenny: Umm...another baby?

**APPLE SWAN**

1. Use a quarter of an unpeeled red apple. (Leave the core in the middle.) Working from the peel side, remove a V-shaped piece of apple, cutting about 1/8 inch (3 mm) from the edges.

2. From the smaller piece, remove another V-shaped piece. Continue cutting out V-shaped pieces all the way to the middle.

3. Put the apple quarter back together, slightly staggered. Cut a swan neck out of an apple piece and place it on the body.

**EGG FLOWER**

Use one round egg slice, carrot slices cut into petal shapes, a thin strip of blanched leek, and a few pieces of leek cut into leaf shapes, and arrange as a flower. For the center, use a piece of capers or peppercorn.

**ICE CUBES WITH EDIBLE FLOWERS**

Place edible flowers and leaves in each compartment of ice cube trays, using a variety of colors, if possible. Fill with water and freeze overnight.

CUCUMBER CHAIN

Use a peel stripper to pull strips of peel from a cucumber. Scoop out the middle of the cucumber. Cut cucumber into thick slices, then cut through one side of several cucumber rings and lock them into each other, forming a chain.



Look, Ma, gorgeous garnishes for you

From page G1

For a unique gesture of affection on Mother's Day, why not set a lavish table with her favorite dishes and desserts. You will need Dad's help, but if he's not around, any adult will do.

Here's the trick: Enhance a simple meal with a graceful fruit or vegetable carving, or some simple but elegant garnishes. You see, food can now be tasted and appreciated through the eyes.

Pick up the book "Glorious Garnishes: Crafting Easy and Spectacular Food Decorations," by Amy Texido, Marianne Muller, Erik Pratsch and Hubert Krieg. It will help you make dishes look as good as they taste with special garnishes and decorations. An ordinary papaya or pumpkin is turned into a bouquet of flowers, a radish becomes a tiny rabbit or daisy and a carrot, a rare orchid.

One technique involves merely peeling and slicing in novel ways and, of course, kids should leave this job to the adult.

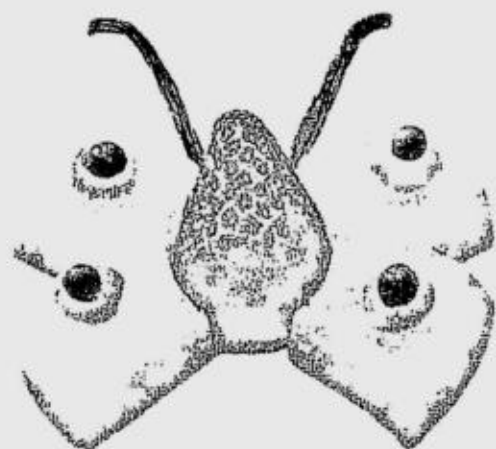
Tools like kitchen knife, peeling knife, peel stripper, melon baller, molds and butter cutter are essential here. Well, just go and check out whatever Mom has in her cupboard.

Almost any kind of fruit or vegetable can be used here. It only takes a well-placed cut, an imaginative combination of foods, and you have a garnish that will make Mom's meal as delightful to look at as it is to eat.

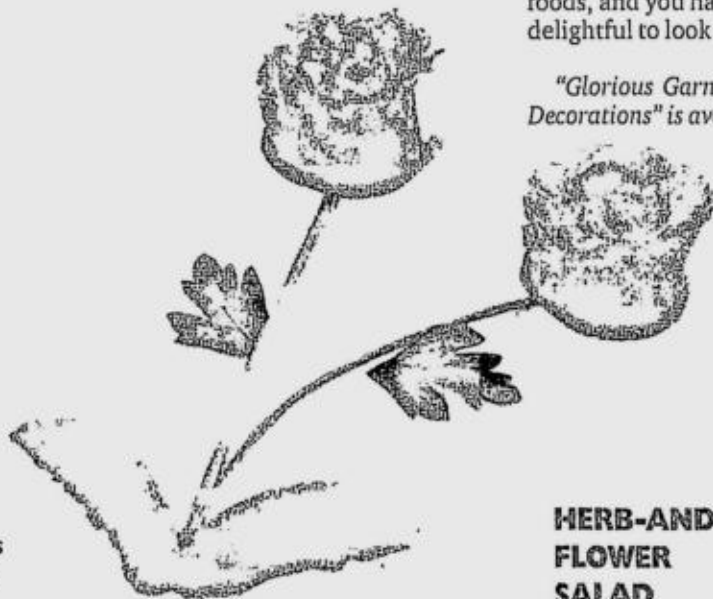
"Glorious Garnishes: Crafting Easy and Spectacular Food Decorations" is available at all Powerbooks stores.

**VODKA BOTTLE WITH HEATHER AND MINT**

Select a nonporous, freezer-safe container that is slightly larger than a bottle of your favorite vodka. Spray the inside of the container lightly with oil or nonstick cooking spray. Tape or glue strands of heather and sprigs of mint to the vodka bottle. Place the bottle in the center of the container and add water up to the bottle's neck. Place upright in the freezer and freeze overnight. Unmold by running warm water over the container, and serve immediately.

**PINEAPPLE BUTTERFLY**

Cut pineapple slices into quarters. Cut a small wedge out of the outer edge of two quarters. Place two pieces to the right and two to the left of a strawberry half and garnish with slices of red cocktail cherries and peppercorns. Place two thin pieces of vanilla bean (or any stalks) at the top of the strawberry for antennae.

**SALMON ROSES**

Roll up two thin smoked salmon slices into rosettes and place them at the ends of a forked parsley sprig. Arrange two lime segments at the stem.

HERB-AND-FLOWER SALAD

Place the largest leaves on the bottom and arrange the smaller leaves and flowers on top. Dress lightly with a balsamic vinaigrette.

HERB BUNDLES

Tie up bundles of fresh herbs with raffia, ribbon, or decorative cord. Choose herbs whose fragrance complements the food being served or whose colors and shapes work particularly well with the food or the table setting.



Encounter weekend to strengthen family ties

DEAR Tita Dulce,

The Servants of the Holy Spirit Catholic Community will hold a Family Encounter Weekend at the Our Lady of Manaoag Shrine, Pandi, Bulacan, starting Friday evening, May 30, and ending Sunday afternoon, June 1.

The weekend is designed to help family members communicate more intimately with one another. It offers the family a chance to rekindle and affirm their love and relationship with one another. For families who have been broken by the corrupt society, the weekend could be the beginning of a lifetime of healing.

For those whose relationships have

been strained by pressing circumstances, this could be the chance to reach out to loved ones and mend differences and begin a life full of hope and love.

The Family Encounter Weekend is the best gift for the family this summer. Thank you for giving space to this letter.

FRANCES HERNANDEZ

Thank you also for the information. Interested readers can contact Letty Pimentel, 658-2154 or (0919) 351-2455; Cez Hernandez, (0919) 328-8228; Goy Hernandez, 927-4415, (0918) 927-8865; or Jerry Hernandez, 926-3002.

LIVE AND LET LIVE



Tita Dulce

US visa application

What are the requirements to apply for a United States visa? I would like to visit my cousin who will graduate this year. I will try my luck to go to the United States.

NENITA B. DIONES

Call the US Embassy trunkline—523-1001. Be sure to have a pen

and paper ready. Listen to the tape recording to find out what number to dial for the information you need. You will, of course, pay P18 per minute when you call the number. You have to prove that you have social, financial and family ties here to get a tourist visa.

Old coins collector

My husband loves to collect old coins, both local and other currencies.

I have read in your column where to sell old coins, but how about old US coins? Do you know anybody who can help us? A friend told us that what we have are priceless

ones.

CELY

Go to the same place. Call Albino Quiban Jr., of the Bank Notes Society of the Philippines, his tel. no. is 524-0548. Tell him the year your coins were minted and how much they are. Don Albino is very trustworthy. Recently he paid P50,000 for a Philippine 1906 one-peso coin, because there were only a few of those, and the coin was still in perfect shape.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascarido Streets, Makati City

A ROSY Feast

awaits shoppers at the Mayflower Festival of the Greenhills Shopping Center.

Paint the town red this rosy month of May as GSC brings you a one-of-a-kind shopping feast. Have a taste of the Philippine regions with delicacies, handicrafts, exotic plants and flowers, or shop for affordable clothes and apparel.

Feast happens on May 9 to June 1 only.



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MTV MOVIE AWARDS

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MTV
MOVIE TRIVIA



Next, your way to the
MTV Movie Awards in L.A.!

Just answer as many movie trivia questions as you can and be one of the four winners of an all-expense paid trip to the biggest movie event of Gentxt this year! Plus, get a chance to win free cellphones and cool MTV merchandise in our daily and weekly draws.

1. The promo is open to all Globe subscribers and can be accessed using service number 2910. Each text message sent costs P2.00 for postpaid & P2.50 for prepaid subscribers.
2. To start playing, answer the following question with T or F and send to 2910:
 "True or False, Jim Carrey has won 9 MTV Movie Awards?"
3. Register by typing <answer> <full name> <complete address> <age> and send to 2910. Ex: T Mike Ang 1-A 3rd St Pque 22
4. Registration is one time only and is free of charge. Only registered participants can win. Registration is one name per cellphone number only.
5. For instructions, the subscriber can type in HELP MTV and send to 2910.
6. Trivia questions will be sent until you stop answering. To continue playing, subscribers must type MTV and send to 2910.
7. You get 10 points for every correct answer.
8. To check your earned points, type POINTS & send to 2910.

9. Prizes

Daily
 There will be 5 daily winners of MTV merchandise based on the top scorers of the day.
 1st Top Scorer — VCD
 2nd Top Scorer — VCD Bag
 3rd Top Scorer — Disk FM Radio
 4th Top Scorer — MTV T-shirt
 5th Top Scorer — Tumbler

Grand Prize

There will be four grand prize winners of free round trip tickets to LA plus pocket money to watch the MTV Movie Awards. The 4 overall top scorers from 12am, April 27 of day 1 to 11:59pm, May 18 of the last day of the promo period win the grand prize.

Grand prize winners who want to avail of the trip should have an existing passport and US Visa and must be ready to leave for L.A. on or before May 29, 2003. Grand prize is convertible to cash in the amount of P95,000.

11. 20% Tax for Prizes exceeding P10,000 shall be shouldered by MTV Philippines.

Weekly
 There will be 3 weekly winners for 3 weeks of a Nokia 6100 or Samsung phone. Highest scorer from 12:00am Monday to 11:59pm Sunday will be the weekly winner.

12. In case of a tie, the subscriber who attained the top score first based on logged time as indicated in the database is determined as the winner.
13. Daily and weekly determination of winners will be done every Monday at the 3rd Floor, 7823 Makati Finance Bldg., Makati Avenue, Makati City, at 5:00pm witnessed by a DTI Representative. Grand prize winners will be determined on May 19, 2003 at the same venue and time.
14. All winners shall be notified via a call to their mobile phones and by registered mail.
15. Participants can win only once for the daily and weekly prize during the entire promo period. However, he/she can still win the grand prize.
16. Winners from Metro Manila may claim their prizes at MTV Philippines with address at 33F, Citibank Tower, Valero St., Legazpi Village, Makati. To claim, winners must bring a valid ID together with the registered mail and the winning SIM card.
18. Provincial winners will receive their prizes via courier service.
19. Prizes must be claimed within 60 days from receipt of registered mail notification. All unclaimed prizes after the 60 day period will be forfeited with prior approval of DTI.
20. Promo is available Nationwide.
21. All employees of Globe /MTV/ Tetra Technologies, Inc. up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promo.



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LIFESTYLE



The devil may wear Prada, but she can also get fired

IN A WORLD that doesn't want to think of SARS and prefers, out of habit, to be irrelevant, the top-of-mind hype among fashionistas these days is a fiction that's believed to be a bare-all written by a former assistant of fashion god Anna Wintour of Vogue.

As I said last week, "The Devil Wears Prada" by Lauren Weisberger has gotten bad reviews, from "W" to Newsweek, yet it's flying off the shelf. It's no literary heavyweight, its plot thinner than Wintour's Starbucks latte, yet it's the seasons biggest hype.

One doesn't have to be a marketing guru or

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan



a psychoanalyst to guess why readers are lapping it up—everybody is a voyeur. You want to know, in day-to-day details, the glitz, glamour, intrigue behind the 100-plus-year-old Vogue, the magazine that's strung along gen-

erations of women. You want to snoop on the style eccentricities of its editor in chief who, after roughly two decades, remains very powerful, not only in Vogue, but in the world at large.

In short, whether your shades are Gucci or i2i (that's supposed to be a compliment, Ricco), you want to see and drool or gloat, why and how Wintour is supposed to be the "boss from hell."

It's not yet in local stores but I have the book before me, dropped on my desk by our

THE DEVIL/H3



Shopping in the heart of the city, all you need is a pair of sunglasses and a good mood.

Atta IV, ayala center

www.armaniexchange.com



GENESIS of Angeli Valenciano with daughter Kiana



HIGH voltage dad Gary Valenciano with son Gabriel



SOUL SIS. G Tongi and Gina Martinez at New World



BRENT BUDDIES. Stephanie Chong and Nini Pio de Roda



PINK PALS. Makeup maven Krist Bansuelo and Jet Valle



COUPLE for Christ Rommel Ongsialko and Loujean De Leon

The princess and the peasant

Text and photos by Tim Yap

THE HALL was a sea of pink and white. Balloons were laid out on the floor as tulle hung from the ceiling, framing the buffet of pasta, salad and sweets that were centered around a giant vase that doubled as an aquarium, with a single goldfish swimming up and down a singular route.

More than a pre-wedding party, it looked like a christening. The New World Renaissance Hotel exuded this air of freshness and purity, something you would not feel in your usual glitz-biz functions.

Then again, this was not your usual show-biz function. The only giveaway were the TV cameras following every step of Donita Rose Cavett and soon-to-be husband Eric Villarama.

Yes, the face that launched countless brands and a million music videos has finally found her man.

They are going to tie the knot on June 9 via a sunset wedding at the Miro lawn of the Bacara Resort, fronting the Pacific Ocean, in Santa Barbara, California. Donita will be wearing a milk-white, empire-cut gown of chiffon and organza by Inno Sotto.

Christian adults

Last Sunday, in a "bed and bath" bridal shower party organized by Genesis (Donita's management company), the couple faced their friends, predominantly from the Christian community, and Donita's family, (who came all the way from Pampanga) to profess their faith and love for each other.

"Let's pray that she changes her mind," said Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan, wearing a structured pink tube, who was so refreshingly "kenkoy" as the night's hostess. "There's nothing you guys can do to change my mind!" said Donita, in a see-through black-and-white Mix ensemble.

Donita was a bundle of nerves while holding her fiancé Eric's hand, as if this was their last night together.

In fact, the only time they separated was



VJ HUNTED. Belinda Pano and G Tongi

when the host started the games, a la soiree where the girls had to be separated from the boys. It felt like a Bible-bonding group, I thought we were going to chant verses and raise our hands in worship. In the spirit of fun, I decided to join in.

It wasn't so wholesome after all. I

realized later that it was an "adult" Christian group, with guys and dolls all getting giggly when we played the game "put the masking tape on the P," the adult Christian version of "pin the tail on the donkey."

So pin we did on all spots of Eric and Donita's bodies starting with the letter "P"—pisngi, pilikmata, panga... with the more intimate "P's" eliciting shrieks and guffaws from the Christ-centered couples.

Truly in love

Then there was the compatibility test. A

few fast facts they cinched so easily, as if they had known each other forever—from the date they first met (Sept. 3, 1988) to when they became steady (Aug. 11, 2001), to their ticklish body parts, and then to what they fight about.

For the latter, he said "tampo and tantrums," while she answered "toilet seat and cleanliness." Very much like you and me.

We are so used to seeing Donita all bubbly on TV, shifting roles while pitching different products from shades of shampoo to sportswear, but this time, there was this unusual happiness in her face. She was truly in love.

So who is this guy that made our dainty rose all agog and ready to take the plunge? How did they meet? And how did he make her say "Yes, yes, yes!"?

"Once upon a time, a peasant and a princess were walking through her kingdom." This was how Eric starts the story.

Mush aside, they really met in 1988, at Donita's home in Angeles City, Clark Air Base.

Eric is a good friend of Donita's younger brother Paul. "I would always notice her passing by the living room. And I was smitten. I always thought that she was the most beautiful girl in the world." He was 11, she was 13.

Reunited

Years after, their families were stationed to Japan. His family moved to mainland Japan while hers moved to Okinawa. They lost touch after that, since Eric moved to San Francisco shortly after.

But fate has a way of bringing people together, and when Donita went back to the States to visit and hang out with her brother, lo and behold. "Hi Susan!" Eric called Donita by her sister's name. "Gosh, I'm taller than you now."

At that time, Eric was a web designer in San Francisco, where he had moved from Fresno California.

He later visited her in the Philippines, where for three weeks they hung out and discovered that they had so much in common.

But Donita, after countless heartaches, wanted God to show her the way. "God, I'm gonna wait for the man you want for me."

One late night before they both went to bed (separately—that has to be clear for the Christians), she asked him, "Hey is there something you wanna tell me?" And he said, "I would regret it if I don't tell you how I feel about you."

Like a blushing rose, she replied, "I feel the same."

Enter Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano, Donita's manager. "It was an uphill climb to keep this girl in one piece. I knew all her boyfriends!"

Phone pal friendship

So when Donita felt her relationship with Eric was becoming serious, Angeli told her to end it, to just be friends, to let the Lord lead them.

So, being the obedient daughter that she is, Donita obeyed, but not without crying really hard.

So they pursued a "phone pal" friendship—one that had "I love you," and "I love you, too" in the picture.

One time during his birthday, Donita even went to the States from Singapore, to surprise him. "I was standing outside the resto for 30 minutes, and it was freezing!"

That December, Eric gave her a gift. It was an online movie trailer called "The Peasant and the Princess," starring Academy award winner Donita Rose and nominee Eric Villarama. The trailer described the movie as a "love story directed by Jesus Christ, coming soon to a theater near you."

Little did Donita know, that was THE sign. Fast forward to Dec. 27, 2001. At 5 p.m., walking around the cliff overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge, Eric gave Donita the



LOVE AND LORD. Donita Rose in Mix with fiancé Eric Villarama at their pre-wedding party organized by Genesis at Renaissance Hotel.

Donita Rose and Eric Villarama live a fairy-tale romance all their own

book version of the movie trailer, "The Peasant and the Princess"—"a fairy tale about a peasant that turns into a knight."

Toward the last chapter, there was a white handkerchief tucked inside the book. "What's this? Surrender?!" Donita wondered.

The proposal

But Eric knelt down before her, saying, "I came to surrender my love for you. Ever since I met you, I've always had feelings for you." Then, he dropped the bombshell: "Donita Rose-Cavett, will you marry me?"

Donita's eyes widened like two jackpot spotlights in a game show. "Ooooooh!" And then her face changed. "Did you ask my mom, Tita Angeli, Gary, Tita Rachel, Pastor Larry, etc..." She enumerated everyone.

"Yes," Eric, the knight in plain armor, said. And then she wept for joy.

Last June 5, Eric left San Francisco to move to Singapore and start a career there, all for Donita. Now 26, he is a senior art director of Formul8, a design agency at the Lion City.

"I gave up a lot of things—I stopped smoking, drinking and all my other vices," Eric told this writer. "The Lord put us together. For the Lord to give me a gift like this, I know there's a reason. I really love her, and I just want you to know that. I promise to take care of her."

Like a princess

"I feel like I'm the luckiest guy in the world. I get to end up with my dream girl," Eric told me at their pre-wedding party.

Donita was overflowing with joy.

"I believe I'm in really good hands," she said. "Actually, I'm in the best hands. He takes care of me like a princess. It's the best thing that has ever happened to me. I hope you guys love him the way you love me."

After the wedding, both will go back to Singapore. Donita will still shuffle to and fro Singapore and Manila for her contracts and for MTV.

How about the honeymoon? Eric winked. "It's still a secret, but maybe the Bahamas!"

Looking at the couple and listening to their sweet nothings, I could not help but melt at the sight of their bliss. There is a relationship founded not only on each other's love, but on something higher and deeper.

People like Donita and Eric make us feel and believe in the magic of unconditional love.



A-LIST dad Anthony Pangilinan



PAUL'S pal Herby Walton



JUICY. Jinky Oda, Christ-centered



ALL SMILES. Mother Lily dearest



"I WISH you get pregnant and have three kids!" says Maricel and Anthony's daughter Ella Pangilinan



COMMUNITY LEADER. Maricel Pangilinan behind the tree of wishes for the couple



RELATIONSHIP based on prayer, directed by Jesus Christ



P-P-P! Eric gets super sticky



SCENES FROM ERIC AND DONITA'S PRE-WEDDING PARTY. The couple in prayer; pink and white group party pose; holding hands forever as friends from the Christian community bestow their wedding wishes

From page H1

"Case had been associated with the magazine since 1926, the halcyon days of Conde



"Margaret Case, almost 80 years old, was devastated. She went home and stayed there, until one morning when her body was found in the courtyard of her apartment building. The next morning's obituary page said Miss Case 'fell or jumped' from the bedroom win-

THE DEVIL/H4 GRACE Mirabella



Wats

for

Mom?

Non den May 11

Sunday, May 11 is Mother's Day



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TAKE1 Foot Scrub/ Lotion
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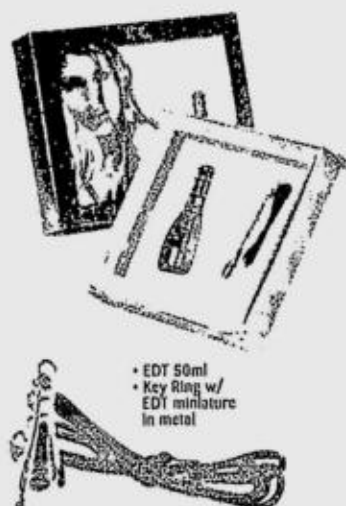
FREE CK Corporate Vanity Case,
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Cafe Espresso Slippers P199.75



BUY1 Foot & Body Essence
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Foot & Body Essence
Milk Hand Wash
500ml **P69.00** ea

**DIANA Vreeland**

Watsons
YOUR PERSONAL STORE

Per DTI-NCB Permit No. 1135 Series of 2002

[illegible]



AT THE END of the fun tournament, Tennistar's Robert Mananquil (far left, second row), PNOC's Art Mori (second row, third from left) and Mario Taguines (beside Mori), with diplomats, from left, first row, Austrian Ambassador Christian Krepela, Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette and wife Marilyn (party hidden), Mrs. Ingrid Krepela, India Deputy Head of Mission Gauri Gupta; second row, from left, Goethe Institut Director Volker Avenmarg, US Political Attache Bill Lucas, and Switzerland Deputy Head of Mission Peter Casaulta.

The devil may wear Prada, but she can also get fired

From page H3

dow of her Park Avenue apartment. One of her neighbors, Mrs. Vreeland had no doubts about the cause.

"She threw herself out of the window because she was eighty, she was out of work, she had no money—and she's been dismissed in the most terrible way," Vreeland later wrote. "She'd gone out the window, sixteen floors. She was as neat as a pin. She was in a raincoat fastened to here, a little handkerchief, all the buttons to the very bottom, and a pair of slacks. I mean she had thought everything out!"

Of course, there were business reasons behind the "beheading" of these women. In Vreeland's last years in Vogue, the magazine was losing money, her runaway creative urges were simply not good for the bottomline and,



US AMBASSADOR Francis Ricciardone at the net on tennistars Sunday

as it turned out, no longer in sync with the anti-establishment '70s. Mirabella, for her part, had run-ins with advertisers and stuck to her credo for the '70s working woman apparently much too long.

Maier quoted what Si Newland was believed to have said, "Change is change—it doesn't happen slowly... The concept of complete satisfaction is like the concept of truth. You can move towards it, but you never entirely get there."

Apparently, not only is Vogue still satisfied with Wintour, she also remains a very strong power—her stint exceptionally long for a Vogue editor. That's how good an editor she must be—not only mastering and creating trends but also riding the vagaries of the world publishing industry. After all, Vogue has been able to sit out the entry of the phenomenal success that is In Style magazine.

But the magazine war is not my business here. My point is, the glitz and glamour of a Vogue or celebrity editorship, for that matter, can be deceiving. Beneath this veneer are downright ugly realities—of firings, of financial losses, of off-the-mark-editorial judgments.

It's not healthy to wear an editorship, or any position, like a crown, because you could lose your head with it. Better just keep in mind—it's all in a day's work. Nothing more.

Ricciardone's tennis

Whenever I look at the photos of diplomats on Amiga's column, something else comes to mind—tennis. I never realized how many ambassadors and diplomats are into the game until I joined the fun tournaments organized by Tennistars, a group of tennis diehards in media led by Robert Mananquil.

Sunday games at PNOC usually pit media people like Robert, Vergel Santos, Fort Yerro, Jess Diaz, Tony Katigbak, Don Reyes, Joe Garcia, Chit Lijauco against the ambassadors. A few Sundays ago, I brought our Working Mom brand manager Pilut Montes to join the games. She was up for a surprise—she and Star's business editor Tony Katigbak were being pitted against US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone and former Prime Minister Cesar Virata.

I enjoyed watching them on the center-court. Virata, so obviously, is a veteran. In his 70s, he's not, of course, hurtling all over the court, but instead, showed well-calculated movements. He knew perfectly well how and where to place the ball, while Ricciardone, before him, was crafty at the net. Pilut and Tony gave the two a good fight, but Ricciardone simply knew how to kill Pilut's balls at the net. Ricciardone's fire complemented Virata's cool.

Other regulars are German Ambassador Herbert Jes, Malaysian Ambassador Mohd Taufik Bin Mold Noor, Switzerland deputy head of mission Peter Casaulta, India deputy head of mission Gauri Gupta, US political attache Bill Lucas and his wife Jill of the US-Asian Environment Program, Australian Ambassador Christian Krepela and his wife Ingrid, Goethe Institute director Volker Avenmarg, Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette and wife Marilyn.

This Sunday should be exciting. Vice President Tito Guingona is joining.

E-mail the author at Thelma_SanJuan@abs.pinyocentral.com

DARE TO GO BOLD.

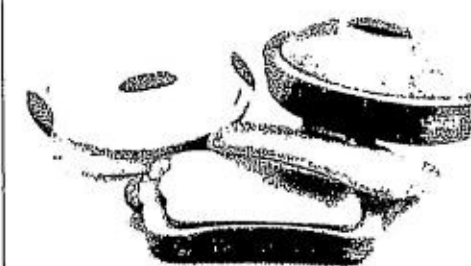
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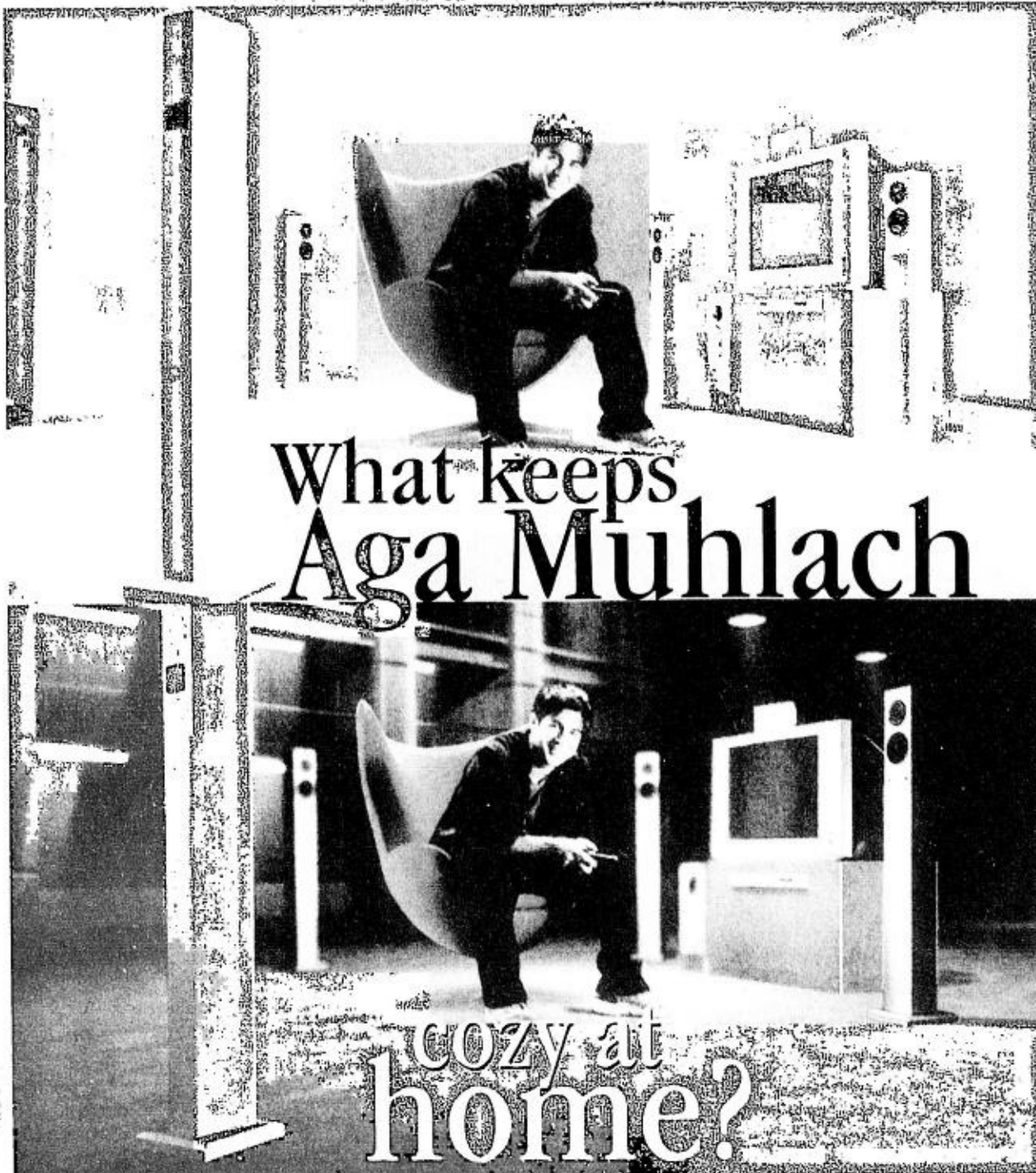
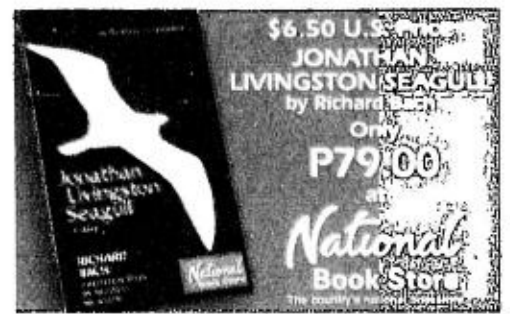
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OCEANIC 1911 carries elegant yet functional kitchenware for moms who love to entertain at home. Its products include thermal food servers, home decor and glassware. Oceanic 1911 stores are located at Glorietta 1, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, Festival Mall, SM Northmall, SM City Manila, Ayala Center Cebu and Robinsons Galleria.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1155, Manila

LIFESTYLE



What keeps Aga Muhlach

cozy at home?

By Belle V. Bondoc

AFTER A DECADE of aggressive marketing, Promac claims to have achieved its goal of earning consumer awareness and trust in their home electronics products.

The Promac karaoke, for instance, has become a fixture in many homes and its electric fan line is challenging the older and more established brands.

The brand's main advantage over the competition is its price, which is much lower than the others' mainly because the products are assembled locally.

Humble beginnings

Promac's manufacturer, Maclin Electronics Inc., was established in 1963. In its early years, its main products were transistor radios with wooden cabinets.

The company ventured into radio-phones in the early '70s, its team of local technicians designing and crafting the products. Like its transistor radios, the new products also had wooden cabinets.

In the early '90s, the company started to produce mini-components, karaoke sound systems and other electronic appliances. The company's karaoke has since become the market leader. The products are marketed under the brand names of Maclin and Promac.

Promac has also started to manufacture kitchen appliances like microwave oven, oven toaster, rice cooker and washing machines, among others.

As consumer needs vary according to lifestyles, the company upgrades its product line regularly to suit individual needs.

It launched recently its top-of-the-line Home Entertainment System, including flat screen television sets, semi-flat screen TV (14"-29" models) and many other models. It has also developed innovative designs for digital video disc (DVD) and video compact disc (VCD) players.

Promac also introduced its latest 5.1 sound system, which in-

cludes four speakers, a central speaker and a sub-woofer.

Onat Roldan, creative director of Infinite Ideas, Promac's publicity arm, said, "The [idea] is [to] provide technically superior products at affordable prices. We firmly believe that people can enjoy the advantage of digital convergence without spending too much."

Roldan said the brand was now one of the top five players in the audio-video market.

The company is hopeful that, with its latest products, it would eventually get the number one spot in the local audio-video system market.

Celebrity endorser

Realizing the local consumer market is celebrity-oriented, the company has chosen popular names to be their product endorsers.

Besides, a high quality brand and a credible endorser make for a perfect combination. Thus, in Promac's latest "Surreal" TV ad, the new Home Entertainment System is touted by the country's No. 1 product endorser, Aga Muhlach.

The "Surreal" TV ad, directed by Sid Maderazo, was shot with a high-definition camera and with the aid of computer graphics. It utilized the HDTV (High Definition Television) format, the very same technology used in "Star Wars" films. Underground Logic did the post-production.

The TV ad will have its initial screening on Mother's Day, May 11.

"If there's one word that best describes Promac, it's sensible, because people get high quality products at very affordable prices. It's really value for your money, one thing we want people to realize," said Roldan.

Promac is currently offering special rates for its Home Entertainment System: a 21" TV set costs less than P6,000; DVD player at P4,000; and the 5.1 Tower (sound system) about P2,000. Packaged, the items cost P10,000 to P12,000.

E-mail the author at rbapril_25@yahoo.com

Aside from the arms of his lovely wife, the matinee idol is cocooned in the home-entertainment ambience of Promac



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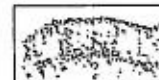
Dr. Daisy Lim-Camitan,
41, Dermatologist &
Clinic owner, Dermgen

As someone whose job is to make others look good, Dr. Daisy knows she has to look good herself. "Patients come to me to look younger. I myself should be the best proof that you don't have to look your age."

With Imdeen, Dr. Daisy has achieved just that. As skin retains its essential moisture, dryness is reduced; in its place you may notice skin more evenly toned, softer and more elastic. "I get a lot of compliments -- people say I look good for my age."

Imdeen is the skin care tablet that helps nourish and revitalize the inner layer of the skin where ageing begins.

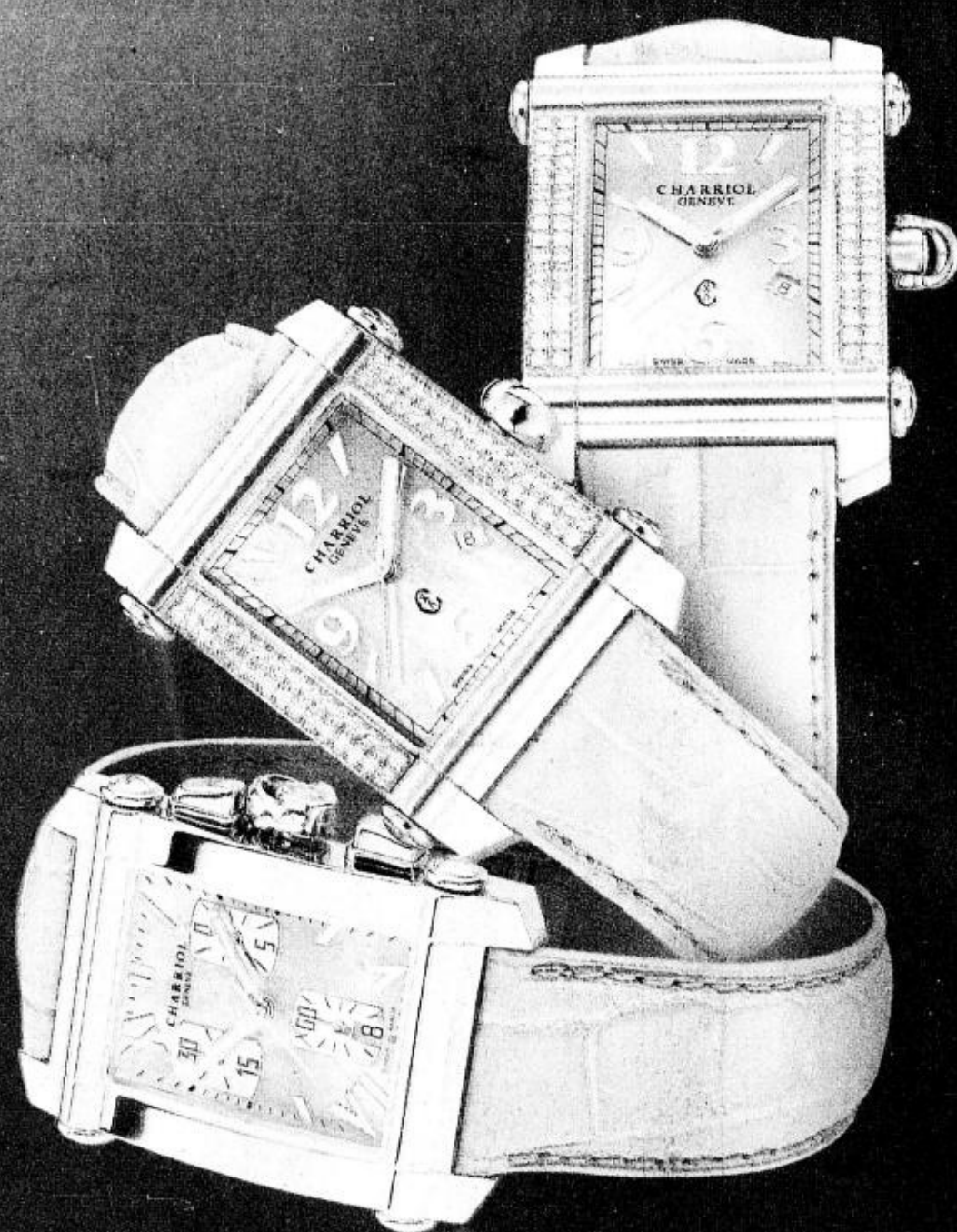
"I always tell my patients, 'To look beautiful, one must feel beautiful inside.' Seeing how young I look gives my spirit a different kind of life. Imdeen does wonders not just for outer beauty, but inner beauty as well. And that's something no facelift can give you."



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AT THE PROMAC TV ad launch: from left, Onat Roldan, Infinite Ideas' creative director; Sid Maderazo, TV ad director; Aga Muhlach; Gelo Serrano, Infinite Ideas' chair; and Aleta Tubig, Underground Logic's executive producer

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The utter reality on TV

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

So, after all has been said and done, what did the Coalition Force invasion of Iraq prove about 21st century media? Simple. The omniscience of God has been diminished to Ted Turner.

New buzzwords have emerged: weapons of mass destruction, decapitation, shock and awe—and, most important perhaps, the embedded journalist.

But amid the political grandstanding and messianic mission statements from the West, nothing beats the television coverage, bringing the war straight into the comfort of your homes, as you have snacks of junk food and bouts of fear about the Apocalypse.

But then the media have changed the world completely. They have, after all, been the principal instrument for globalization—throwing all cultures into one big vat of electronic images and sounds.

Thanks to the accessibility and availability of mass media, time zones, physical distances and cultural differences are diminished to the simplicity of a remote control device.

Even Marshall McLuhan never imagined the global village to turn into this kind of tenement housing.

CNN, BBC and Fox News are not the only instruments that provide a constant influx of the Western perspective into the right side of our brains. Cable channels have, for instance, opened an even bigger department store full of goodies—providing nonstop 24-hour entertainment.

Depending on your mood swing, you can learn to roast beef with fresh rosemary sprigs while at the same time marveling at Lara Croft in her live-action, high-tech adventure.

For the more eclectic in taste, trying to sit through a Thai variety show (that you cannot understand) or a Chinese news-

cast (that you can surprisingly comprehend) should be proof enough that the world is indeed in your living room.

But then, so what? Anyone can obtain this plugged-in sort of state of mind by addition to the World Wide Web.

Guts and glory

Television reached a new twist when all the reality programs and mutations of game shows brought a new definition to the saying, "No guts, no glory."

Reality shows have been around for quite some time. Whether it was the innocent "Candid Camera" (now cloned into "Wow, Mali!") or all those compilations of favorite home videos, the exercise remains in the same: finding the more absurd side of reality than any convoluted Mexican telenovela.

At first, the audiences were amused by babies falling off their cribs scored with tunes like "On Top of Spaghetti" or typical obese white trailer trash trying to dive into swimming pools approximating the grace of acrobatic whales.

Then came all those snippets of cops running after drunk drivers, petty thieves... or even their wives—reaching an apex of rating triumph when OJ Simpson decided to do a real-life getaway on the freeways of Los Angeles. This spurred a newfound interest in television that is right there where it happens when it happens.

Even the classic car chase scene of William Friedkin's "The French Connection" pales in comparison to the dynamics of violence and camerawork—except for the fact that real people in real life turn out to be just ham actors.

So now we have shows that highlight a bull going berserk and gorging townspeople in a chaotic Spanish fiesta. We can even see a circus elephant have a nervous breakdown, trampling on innocent audience members before it is finally sedated. We can also watch real-life security camera showing petty thieves gunning down convenience store clerks in the middle of the night.

With the ante raised, the images have become more and more gruesome and

we begin to equate them with blood-curdling excitement.

For whose blood pressure will not rise at the sight of a speeding motorcar doing five complete somersaults on a bad maneuver, diving straight into the bleachers of screaming spectators. Just remember that no special effects were used here and the screams of horror you hear are authentic.

Too impatient to wait for reality to set up these colorful tragedies, games with thousands of dollars at stake now provide yet another perverse version of entertainment.

For \$50,000, mentally and physically healthy young men and women will go completely nude for so many minutes in front of a crowd, flaunting their privates as if to test the absence of their shame.

Then they will stick their heads in a glass container with very confused rodents—scraggly haired gray animals dashing about their faces as the clock ticks all too slowly.

And if they survive that, they will yet jump from one rooftop to another—or leap from the top of a moving truck to a nearby vehicle.

Or swim through a long simulated tunnel in ice cold water. If that is not a test of human endurance, then the triathlete may have to reconsider professional training.

Oh, but that is not all. Dump an assortment of people in an isolated island and let them fend for themselves—eventually voting out each other based on who proved the weaker or the likely winner.

Let them race across the world in teams of two, trying to outmaneuver and outwit each other, whether they have to ride bicycles, walk through pits overflowing with snakes... or simply exhibit all kinds of cruelty just to win.

And the prize, of course, is always a bag of money or a pot of gold from some sadistic leprechaun.

There will always be that lofty rationale that it is not winning the game but simply playing it that proves the triumph of the human spirit over all obstacles and ordeals.

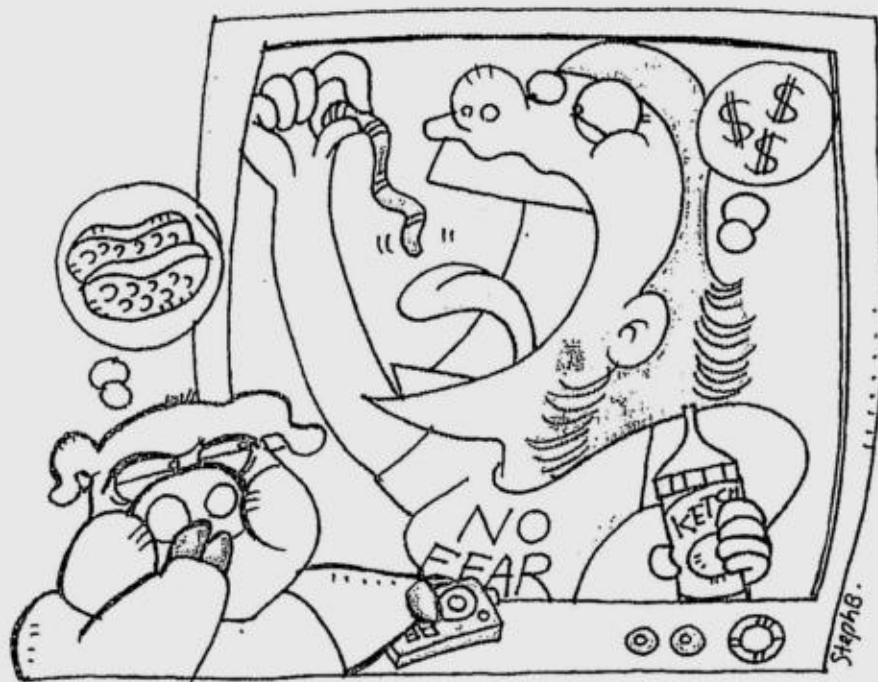


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Yeah, right. It is as if sticking your face into a cage full of rats has got anything to do with the ideals embodied by the Olympic Games.

Bottom line

The bottom line is money—and how television producers go to demented lengths just to prove what people are willing to endure to bring home that fat cash prize.

Yet what is even more disturbing is how audience have actually been entertained by such programs. Just how grossed-out can one get watching contestants munch on very crunchy grasshoppers—not unless these are the same delicacies Kapampangans serve you under the banner of exoticism?

How blasé have we become to actually enjoy watching young men and women jump off speeding trucks, leap from the 30th floor of buildings or return to primitive situations in the middle of some marshland, clothed in tatters, holding spears and re-creating "The Lord of the Flies"? And it is all because of the money.

Many years ago, Sidney Pollock directed the film adaptation of Horace McCoy's novel titled "They Shoot Horses, Don't

They?" Jane Fonda gave one of her most memorable performances together with Gig Young who eventually took home the Oscars for best supporting actor.

The film was about marathon dancing contests in the American '30s, where dance partners had to stay on their feet nonstop for weeks on end for the entertainment of an audience who put bets on their favorite pairs.

The surreal quality of the competition was captured brilliantly—showing the desecration of human dignity and the triumph of greed and materialism all under the protective dressing of healthy sportsmanship.

Seven decades later, the same perverse entertainment has returned in even more dynamic form. The only difference is that you don't have to buy a ticket to see sickness in amusement: you can get it in the sanctity of your cocoon.

Somehow, it only goes to prove that amid all our so-called sophistication and worldliness, we still find a private joy in watching embedded cameramen inside tanks capturing gun battles in real time. We find smug dignity in witnessing people eat worms because it will yield tangible rewards.

Yes, that's another buzzword: reality TV.

Outstanding high-school students awarded scholarships

HIGH school students who topped a nationwide search by Matsushita Electric Philippines Corp. (Mepco) were awarded the Panasonic Scholarship at Philippine Colleges and Universities by Dr. Manuel Punzal of the Commission on Higher Education and Yukiharu Kubota, Mepco president. Meanwhile, applications to the 2004 Panasonic Scholarship for a master's course in Japan has been extended until May 15. Call 284-2036; 635-2260 local 2226; fax 635-2260 local 2522. Visit the website at www.matsushita.co.jp/scholarship. Only online applications are accepted at www.mepco.panasonic.com.ph.

WORKSHOP. A workshop dubbed "Tapping the Creative Universe," designed and facilitated by Jim Paredes, is set on May 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, and 30, at the Rockwell Club, Amorsolo Street, Makati. A six-session walk-the-edge workshop that will help identify self-imposed blocks in your thinking, guide you through unblocking your creativity, joy and energy, and introduce personal practices to keep you creative for life. Call 426-5375 or 929-0230.

LIBRARIANS' SEMINAR. The Philippine Librarians Association Inc. will hold a seminar-workshop on Library Philosophy, Practices and Challenges of the 21st Century on May 22-24 at Casa Eugenio, Tabaco, Albay. Call Ma. Fe Abeleda-Robles at 931-5988; Linda Tayona, 302-7717; Emma Rey, 931-5864; Gigi Barbara, 735-5471 local 403.

PHOTOGRAPHY. The Federation of Philippine Photographers will mark its 10th anniversary by holding a series of basic and advanced photography courses

on May 24-25 at Fort Santiago. Register at 7/F Comfoods Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati. Call 843-5341 or 813-7420.

ANIMATION WORKSHOP. Faber-Castell is conducting Workshops on Animation and Imagination in various branches of SM Supermalls. The workshops are open to boys and girls, 7-11 years old. The following is the schedule of the workshops: May 15-17, SM Southmall Activity Center; May 20, SM Southmall Storyland; May 22-24, SM Fairview Activity Center; May 27, SM Fairview Storyland; and May 29-31, SM Pampanga Activity Center. Call 361-7391 to 92.

LECTURE. Businessmaker Academy will hold a lecture/workshop on Creative Photography for Fun and Profit, "Snap Away and Take Terrific Photos" on May 24, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., at Tektite. On May 23, Businessmaker Academy will hold a Creative Writing for Fun and Profit seminar, "Unleash the Writer in You," 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Tektite. Call 687-4445/3416.

SALES. Starmall on Shaw Boulevard corner Edsa, Metropolis Star in Alabang and MStar in Las Piñas will hold simultaneous mallwide sales featuring back-to-school items on May 16-18. You can get up to 50-percent off on selected items. MStar will mark Mother's Day with "Star Si Mommy" promo where you can win special gifts for Mom by presenting a minimum of P300 single or accumulated purchase receipts at the MStar Marketing Office.

NEW BOOK. The "Manual on Human Behavior and Crisis Management" is off the press. Authored by Dr. Oscar Gatchalian

Soriano, the book attempts to answer questions such as What is terrorism? Who are these terrorists? Where do they come from? Does religious extremism have anything to do with terrorism? What makes criminals do the things they do? Are they motivated by causes or ideologies? Or are they merely acting out aberrant behavior and personality disorders? Call 927-9858.

PROMO. Blackboard Specials is a back-to-school promo that runs until May 31. Win school supplies and other Unilever goodies every time you purchase any of Pond's products. Moms also get a chance to bring home appliances whenever they buy CMC items such as Knorr, Lady's Choice, Best Foods and Skippy at any branch of Big R Supercenter in Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa and Robinsons Cagayan de Oro.

SUMMIT. Speakers will present various strategies and developments in the logistics industry during the Freight Logistics Summit on June 4-5 at Century Park Hotel. They include Bureau of Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, Deputy Commissioner Alexander Arevalo, Charlie Villaseñor, president of Transprocure, and Ricky de Vera, president of Pin-point Consultancy. Call 895-5735/2392.

BAZAAR. Celebrate Mother's Day with the best bazaar bargains this weekend at "Shop@the fort the Mothers Day Special", May 10-11, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at NBC tent. It will feature household items, fashion accessories, designer clothes, shoes and bags, homemade goodies like cakes, pastries, salad dressing, dips and pasta sauces.



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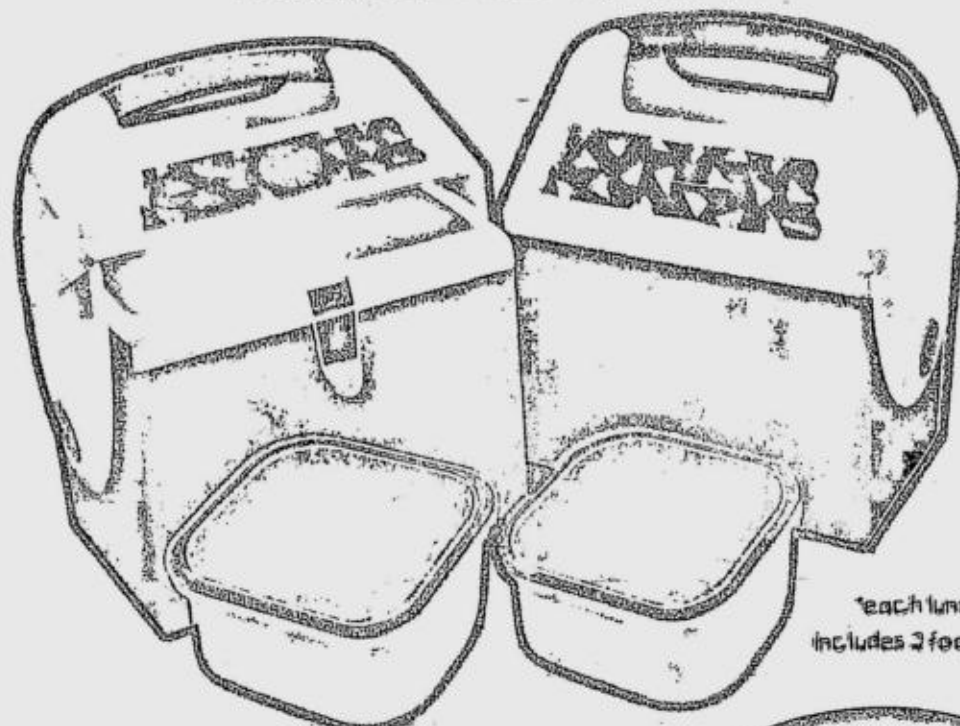


SAYAW Pambata workshop is a joint project of Bayanihan, the Philippine Women's University's Center for Arts and Culture, and the Cultural Center of the Philippines. This year's workshop had 80 participants (shown above) joining the two-week song-and-dance sessions at PWU's Conrad Benitez Hall. The workshop is open to children ages 6-12 and 13-23 years old. It teaches the rudiments of Philippine folk dance, folk songs and playing ethnic music.



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PGI gives its side on Tiwi controversy

MARIA L. Heras de Leon, executive vice president of Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI), which operates the geothermal plant in Tiwi, Albay, gave us her company's side on the issues mentioned in a two-part article in this column last March.

PGI is a subsidiary of Unocal, a well-known geothermal resource developer in the United States.

The articles were based on the report we received from Salve M. Opeda, a native of Tiwi and a member of an organization (LEAF) involved in environmental and spiritual causes. On a trip to the United States, she asked the help of Catalyst, an American organization that assesses corporations' impact on the environment.

Catalyst provided the desired information and we got many of our facts from its report.

"Tiwi is now devoid of her hot springs," we quoted Opeda in that first article, mentioning also that without the hot springs, the town lost its principal tourist attraction. Even the adjacent Naglabong Park was also gone.

PGI said, on the contrary, it was developing the park so the area could continue to be a tourist attraction for all to enjoy. It will be opened to the public very soon, it said, and would feature, among other things, a Science Centrum and a Geo Park.

We wrote also that despite the electricity generated by the geothermal plant, the townspeople still experienced brownouts as the power went straight to Manila or elsewhere, making it necessary for the town mayor to correct the oversight.

De Leon replied that "[g]eneration for Tiwi goes into the transmission corridor where it adds to the power mix. It is this power mix [geothermal, coal-fired, oil-fired, hydro, natural gas] that is transmitted through the National Power Corp. network of high-voltage lines and transformers and delivered in bulk to distributors like Meralco and rural electric cooperatives."

This means that "the load is controlled by millions of individual customers nationwide...[so that] the brownouts in Tiwi must have something to do with the reliability of [its] power system, and not with the geothermal project."

In fact, she added, the pace of Tiwi's electrification had very little to do with the geothermal project.

As for the claim that geothermal plants emitted toxic gases

SEEING GREEN



Doris
Gaskell Nuyda

'We abide by
the highest
safety and
health
standards'

that could affect people's health, she stressed that the unique advantage of geothermal energy was that it "has very little impact in terms of atmospheric emissions."

Like other power plants burning traditional fossil fuels, gases like hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide were emitted by geothermal plants. The gases were present whether the resource was developed or not.

De Leon assured us, however, that "we abide by the highest safety and health standards. In fact, the Occupational Safety and Health Center [OSHC] of the Department of Labor and Employment [DOLE] conferred on PGI the Gawad Kaligtasan at Kalusugan [GKK] Award (for) its Tiwi operations for three consecutive years."

We would like to congratulate PGI on this, if only we knew what standards DOLE used for its awards assessment.

Is losing the hot springs something to cheer about? That is the point we are trying to make. The development of a resource for power generation is good and necessary, but why must a local landmark be lost because of it?

De Leon refuted statements made in the second part of the series, most of which came from Catalyst. In the second part, it was mentioned that the Catalyst cited the case of The Geysers, a large geothermal plant in northern California, where steam pressure dropped after 40 years of operation, showing that geothermal energy was not renewable.

Said De Leon, "This decline has been arrested and reversed by injecting treated waste water from surrounding communities into the geothermal reservoir." And as

PGI/13

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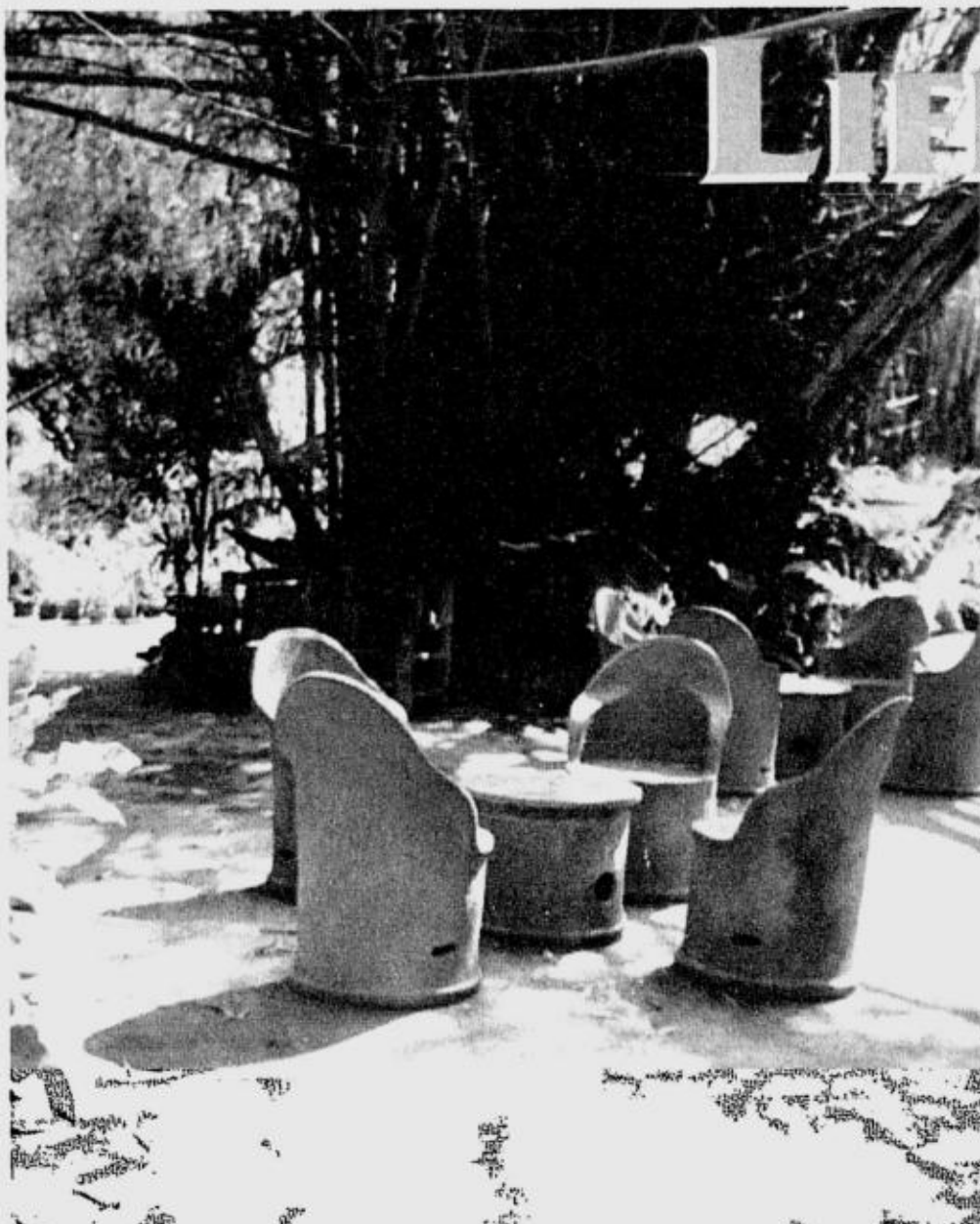
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Secret garden

STORY ON PAGE J2



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A HOLE-Y driftwood hosts miniature bromeliads. To its right are some of Flores' fern collections.

Secret garden

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

Francis Flores lives up to his family name and nurtures a garden behind his pottery workshop in the 16th century city of Vigan

VIGAN does not really need another tourist attraction.

Listed in 1999 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) as a World Heritage Site—one of five in the Philippines—the capital of Ilocos Sur has more than enough to delight any visitor.

The city's accomplishment, which qualified it to join the elite group of heritage sites, is its having "the best preserved example of a planned Spanish colonial town in Asia." Established in the 16th century, the city has brought together exceptional Asian and European cultural elements.

That distinction, however, did not stop former ship engineer Francis A. Flores from developing yet another crowd drawer, albeit a contemporary one. Tucked behind the workshop where the family conducts its regular business—the making of terracotta products—and not visible to passersby, Flores has nurtured a lush garden of bromeliads, ferns, palms, bamboo and bonsai.

Flores, who reportedly does the landscaping for the city government of Mayor Eva Marie Singson Medina, has called his work the Hidden Garden. It boasts of large potted bird's nest ferns, bromeliads girding a miniature waterfall or providing ground cover for a clump of bamboo, air plants growing on driftwood, and bonsai and ornamental stones dividing a pathway.

Living up to family name

True to his name, Flores, the eldest of three children, has been keenly interested in plants early on. He started making bonsai at 17 without any formal training after reading up on the subject of miniaturizing plants.

He only had formal instruction in bonsai-making when he came to Manila to study marine engineering, attending lectures and seminars by plant experts. The youthful hobby would produce about 80 miniature plants, a few of which still survive to this day, gracing the entrance to the garden.



FLOWERING TOPIARY is Francis Flores' tribute to a traditional form of transportation that has become a tourist attraction in Vigan—the calesa.



PAIR of driftwood shows off to their best advantage these tillandsias.

While still a student, Flores also started collecting plants and going to garden shows. He has 15-year-old bird's nest ferns acquired in Los Baños during his earlier forays of garden shows.

In 1980, he temporarily hanged up his gardener's overall to practice his profession. He worked in a foreign vessel then "abandoned" ship in 1985 to work in Saudi Arabia's Minister of Defense and Aviation, where he remained until 1997.

With his work hours fixed, Flores looked for something to do to occupy himself. On the suggestions of friends, he took up landscaping in an international correspondence school. By the time he returned to the Philippines, the erstwhile sailor was ready to bring the family business to another direction.

Flores not only used the terracotta pots the family produced in his garden and landscaping jobs, but he also introduced a new line. In addition to firewood-using stove, water jars, and clay toys, the family now makes garden furniture. The Hidden Garden was a most appropriate backdrop to showcase tables and chairs made of red clay.

Incidentally, although Vigan is now better known for the dark brown or gray burnay (tapayan), indigenous potters in the early days started with red clay products.

Fidel Go, proprietor of Ruby's Pottery who has been declared a National Folk Artist for his work on burnay, said it was his father who introduced the skill for making the darker vitrified or high-fired pottery.

Go said when his father, Pedro, arrived in 1922, local artisans were already making low-fired terracotta products. The new migrant decided to import a new pottery technique from his home country. He returned to China not only to learn the technology but also to recruit potters to work in the shop he opened in Vigan. Fidel took over the manage-



BROMELIADS and bird's nest ferns are one of the products of the family business.



FORMER ship engineer Flores family name with his keen interest in plants.



A YOUNG mango tree is surrounded by potted mini bromeliads.



ATONE pieces provide the attraction in this rather bare corner of the garden's nipa hut centerpiece.



WOODEN bench under a nipa hut's centerpiece is a you



AN OLD calesa wheel serves as a trellis for a climbing water plant. A flowering bromeliad provides some color.



LARGE bird's nest ferns, among Flores' earliest plant collections, guard a clump of bamboo.



LUSHLY growing bromeliads almost obscure other plants in this section of the garden.



A VISITOR to the Hidden Garden is greeted by this arrangement of bonsai and ornamental stones.



est ferns flank a mini waterfall with a cawa at the base. To the left is a tapayan, Flores workshop.



ment of the business in 1970. But the Flores workshop carries on the pre-Hispanic tradition by making terracotta pottery. Flores lists among the services he offers landscape design and maintenance, waterfalls setup, and grotto-making. He also sells and rents out plants. The family pottery business accepts orders for terra cotta products and Vigan tiles of all sizes. Most of his work so far has been confined to his native Vigan although a few fellow Bigueños, who have built homes in Metro Manila, have "imported" his services. Probably the most prominent of his Metro Manila clients is the Crisologo matriarch, Carmeling.

Francis Flores lives up to the interest on plants.

E-mail the author at lbolido@hotmail.com



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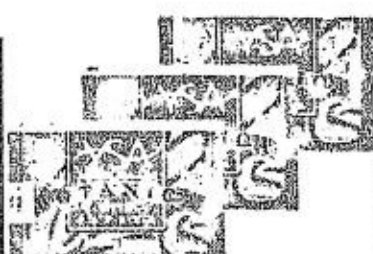
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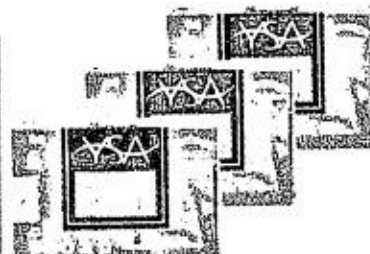
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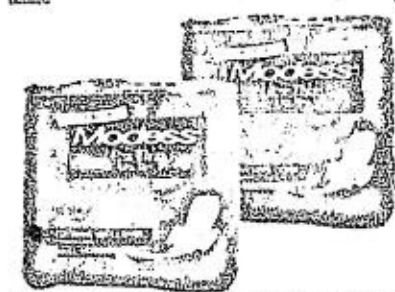
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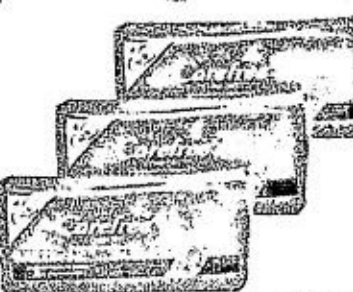
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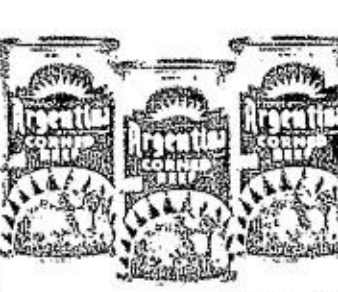
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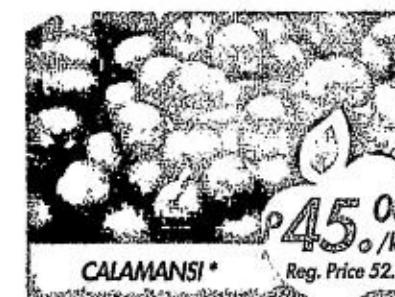
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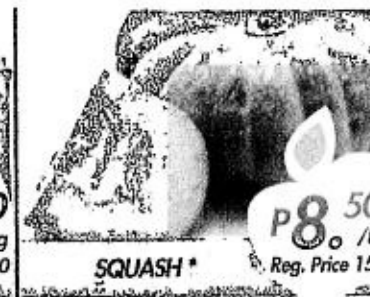
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